

# WINE ENTHUSIAST BUYING GUIDE

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

## THIS MONTH

- 27 NORTHERN ITALY
- 41 CENTRAL ITALY
- 47 SOUTHERN ITALY
- 51 GREECE
- 52 CHAMPAGNE
- 52 LOIRE VALLEY
- 54 BEAUJOLAIS
- 55 BORDEAUX
- 65 SOUTHWEST FRANCE
- 65 VIN DE FRANCE
- 66 SPAIN
- 72 PORTUGAL
- 81 GERMANY
- 83 AUSTRIA
- 145 NEW ZEALAND
- 148 SPIRITS

Lanzarote Volcano and Volcanic Landscape with traditional Grapevine Plantation on dark lava sand close to La Geria

GETTY IMAGE

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# VOLCANIC DIVERSITY

Geology and romance come together in these wines.

*Danielle Callegari is a writer at large, reviewing the wines of Tuscany and Southern Italy. Emily Saladino is a writer at large, reviewing the wines of Greece, Georgia and Hungary.*

**Danielle Callegari:** If we're talking volcanic wines I think the first question has to be, what makes wines from volcanic soils special? Coming from an Italian perspective, it was Etna that really caught the world's attention, and you can't deny there's something about that massive, rumbling volcano that brings you back to how deep the history of wine production and culture is in Italy—it creates this sense of primitive attachment. And it certainly does seem to produce wines that are unique and iconic, even if it's hard to say if it's really the volcano that's doing that, or if it's about taking advantage of the unusual conditions that the volcano creates for viticulture and vinification.

In any case we can say that being able to let the specificity of the terrain shine while coaxing out something unexpected is what makes these wines exciting. It's definitely a top reason our 2023 Winemaker of the Year is Alessio Planeta. Planeta's experiments on Etna have been about creating wines that are equal parts joyful and sophisticated, but that also show the absolutely stunning diversity of expressions available among volcanic wines.

**Emily Saladino:** Exactly! There are so many types of volcanic soils and maybe even more ways that volcanic soils can express themselves in wine. Words like "minerally" come up a lot when people talk about volcanic wines, but even that is subjective and variable. For instance, in Greece, volcanic wines come from



Danielle Callegari



Emily Saladino

Santorini, an island that's less than 30 square miles, and there's enormous diversity among them depending on where the grapes were grown, what the climate was like that year and what the winemaker got up to in the winery. There are wines like Kalliston's Nykteri Santorini 2018, which has flinty notes with a beautifully creamy texture thanks to careful oak aging; versus the crisp, linear and, yes, mineral qualities of Gaia Wines' Thalassitis 2020 Assyrtiko.

There are certain geological specifications to volcanic wine, but there's also a bit of romance at play. "Volcanic soil" is like everything in wine: a combination of hard science and romantic intangibles. Both are legit, and both make wine exciting.

**DC:** Absolutely, there's an element of human ingenuity and and wherewithal, and then

the magic of nature, underlined by the unlikelihood that grapes should be able to survive, let alone flourish, under these extreme conditions. Being able to capture the mystery of ancient formations that pre-exist human civilization that is then shaped by the vision of a winemaker just feels exhilarating—explosive even.

**ES:** Completely agree. It's fascinating to think about how a modern wine might be impacted by eruptions that quite literally altered the earth's surface. It's history, art, science, technology and a little bit of mystery, all in one bottle.

## The Wine Enthusiast Buying Guide

The Buying Guide includes ratings and reviews of new-release and selected older beverage alcohol products evaluated by Wine Enthusiast magazine's editors and other qualified tasters.

### STAFF EDITORS

**Anna-Christina Cabrales:** Burgundy, Rhône Valley  
**Jim Gordon:** Napa, Sonoma  
**Craig Chamberlain:** Virginia  
**Stacy Briscoe:** Northern California & California AVA

### WRITERS AT LARGE

**Michael Albery:** Oregon, Washington, Canada  
**Danielle Callegari:** Tuscany & Southern Italy  
**Mike DeSimone:** Spain, Croatia, Israel, Turkey, Lebanon, Armenia  
**Matt Kettmann:** Central & South Coast California  
**Kara Newman:** Spirits, RTD  
**Christina Pickard:** Australia, New Zealand, England, New York  
**Jeff Porter:** Piedmont & Northern Italy  
**Emily Saladino:** Greece, Georgia, Hungary  
**Reggie Solomon:** Beaujolais, Loire Valley  
**Jesica Vargas:** South America & South Africa  
**Roger Voss:** Portugal, France: Bordeaux, Champagne, Southwest & Other France  
**Aleks Zecevic:** Alsace, Austria, Germany

### TASTING METHODOLOGY AND GOALS

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

### ABOUT THE SCORES

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

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

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

### SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

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

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

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

**Best Buys** are products that offer a high level of quality in relation to price. Wines meriting this award are generally priced at \$20 or less, and are designated Best Buys after surpassing a specific quality-to-price ratio benchmark above 86 points.

### SUBMITTING PRODUCTS FOR REVIEW

Products should be submitted as detailed in our FAQ, available online via [wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating](http://wineenthusiast.com/submit-for-rating). Inquiries should be addressed to [tastings@wineenthusiast.net](mailto:tastings@wineenthusiast.net). **There is no charge for submitting products.**

### LABELS

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

Find all reviews on our fully searchable database at [wineenthusiast.com/ratings](http://wineenthusiast.com/ratings)



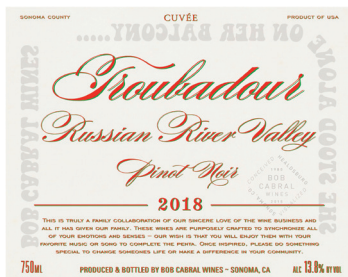
**98** **Tua Rita 2019 Per Sempre Syrah (Toscana).** Deep, almost brooding blackberries, blueberries, black plum, cigar box and dark chocolate on the nose, but still a certain freshness carries through. Lush, dense fruit continues on the palate but notes of top soil and pepper maintain a lively spiciness picked up and elevated by the heat through the finish. The iconic satin tannins of Tua Rita deliver a mouthfeel somewhere between crème brûlée and clouds. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$250



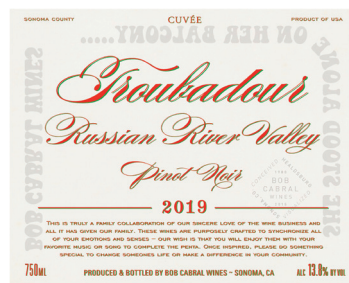
**97** **Emeritus 2019 Pinot Hill Cruz Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Fresh, bright cherry aromas lead to more complex, savory, mushroom and sour-cherry flavors in this multi-layered, well-balanced and fascinating wine. Vibrant acidity is balanced by good concentration and a medium body, as moderate tannins lend a good grip to the mouthfeel. Best 2026–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$110



**96** **Bricoleur 2021 Kick Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Fountaingrove District).** The wood smoke, rubber tire, roast venison and black-pepper aromas are dramatic and typical in this rowdy, maverick wine. Beneath the earthy aromas are rich, concentrated blackberries, black figs and smoked brisket flavors that need a big meaty dish to pair with. Best through 2030 or beyond. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$60



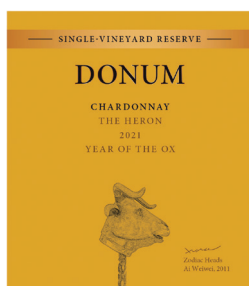
**97** **Bob Cabral Wines 2018 Troubadour Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Violets and rose petals in the aroma give an inviting opening to this elegant yet impressively concentrated wine before vivid red cherries and cranberries lift the palate. Fine-grained tannins and tangy acidity lend a mouth-watering texture that will help it age gracefully. Best from 2026–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$125



**96** **Bob Cabral Wines 2019 Troubadour Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This deep, vibrant and wonderfully well-balanced wine feels alive with tangy cherry and berry flavors, as driving acidity and moderate tannins shape it into an appetizing expression that demands more sipping. While tempting and enjoyable now, the wine will have more to show from 2026–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$125



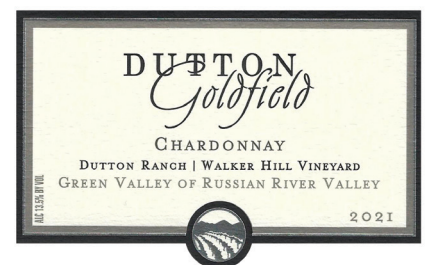
**96** **Center of Effort 2021 Il Due Rhône-style Red Blend (Edna Valley).** Winemaker Nathan Carlson is just starting to get into this estate's Rhône varieties and the early results are compelling. This blend of 75% Grenache and 25% Syrah begins with aromas of raspberry, lilac, potting soil and a hint of cocoa dust. The palate is phenomenally tense, offering blueberry, thyme, lavender and clove flavors with a very dry finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60



**97** **Donum 2021 The Heron Year of The Ox Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros).** Brilliant fruit and spice flavors ride a racy texture that is at once creamy and crisp, for a super-appetizing balance that demands sip after sip. Subtle lemon, toast, ginger, vanilla and butter nuances come up in the aroma and spread across the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$125



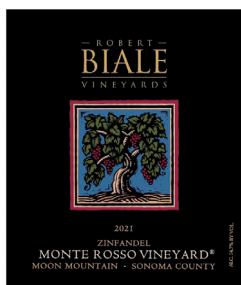
**96** **Bob Cabral Wines 2019 Wildflower Riesling (Sonoma Coast).** Opening with brilliant white peaches, wet stones and green apples, this light-bodied and tangy-textured wine doubles down on the flavors as fresh acidity drives more peaches, apricots and tangy apple skin. This labor of love by a veteran winemaker is one of the West Coast's best dry Rieslings. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$60



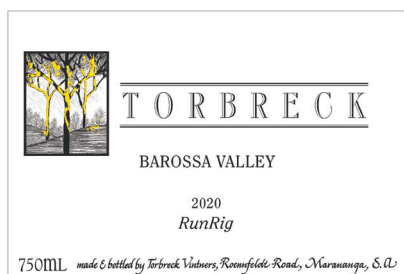
**96** **Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Dutton Ranch Walker Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** This elegant wine from Dan Goldfield smells subtle and spicy, tastes creamy and complex and feels bracing and light in texture. The harmony among fresh, crisp apples and pears, light toast and butter nuances and restrained oak toasting is superb. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55



**96 Elk Cove 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Reserve is composed of the nine best barrels from Elk Cove's estate plantings. It will require decanting in the short run and patience in the long run. Beautiful boysenberry, tangerine and anise-laced Thai basil aromas lead to flavors like tangy cranberry, raspberry and cinnamon. Drink 2025–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A. **abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100



**96 Robert Biale 2021 Monte Rosso Vineyard Zinfandel (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** A great blend of tangy red fruits and jammy black fruits gives this full-bodied wine nice layering and complexity along with good balance for an appetizing expression. The vineyard's mountaintop location adds to the good acidity and moderate tannins for a mouth-watering grip. Best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G. **abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$85



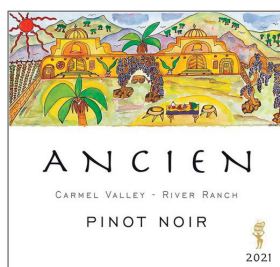
**96 Torbreck 2020 RunRig Shiraz-Viognier (Barossa Valley).** Rich, evocative aromas of mulberry, blueberry, coffee bean and hot-cocoa mix lend approachability to what is otherwise a rich, dense wine, packed with flavor, but also with powerful, chalk dust tannins that need serious protein if opening now. Patience will be rewarded, however. Give this a few more years in bottle. Delicate Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P. **abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$225



**96 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2022 Bacigalupi Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A savory matrix of sour cherries, bay leaves, rhubarb and violets is irresistible in this enchanting, elegant and well-balanced wine. A nice tension of acidity and light tannins gives the texture a mouth-watering appeal, while the complex fruity, leafy flavors linger long on the finish. Best through 2029. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



**95 Alma Rosa 2021 El Jabali Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Bosnian-born winemaker Samra Morris is taking a ripe and spicy direction with these Pinot Noirs, and the results are satisfying. Detailed aromas of blueberry, crushed slate, sagebrush and concentrated lavender lead from the nose into a palate that coats the mouth, offering ginger snap, violet, licorice and rounded stewed-berry flavors. —M.K. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$90



**95 Ancien 2021 River Ranch Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley).** Sourced from a vineyard of imported Burgundian cuttings planted back in 1982, this is a complex Pinot Noir, offering concentrated aromas of blueberry, palo santo and warm vanilla on the nose. The palate is joyous in cherry and baking-spice flavors, then picks up an herbaceous eucalyptus leaf kick before dropping into a spicy, Sichuan peppercorn-laced finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K. **abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60



**95 Benovia 2020 Cohn Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Black tea, bay leaf, wet stones, moss and sour cherries dominate the intricate aromas of this layered, aromatic and savory-slanted wine. Delicious black fruits, complex oaky and herbaceous undertones and a velvety texture make it quite a standout. —J.G. **abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$100



**95 Caparzo 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is defined by the fresh earthiness of walking in the park after a storm, but fruit undertones of blood orange and strawberry provide nuance. On the palate, raspberries underscore the sweetness of the fruit, while the damp soil element lingers in the background. Grippy but polished tannins serve as an entourage for tenacious acid that carries through the finish. Vineyard Brands. —D.C. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80



**95 Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Intense aromas of black raspberry and strawberry float atop spicy cracked pepper and sharp baking spice on the nose of this bottling. The palate pops with floral flavors of scarlet red rose and lavender, with a lightly caramelized kick of dark cherry arising by the finish, as black pepper dust enhances the whole sip. —M.K. **abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60





**95** Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lovely and intense aromas of blueberry and violet are rich, but fresh on the nose of this bottling from a very cool-climate vineyard. The palate adds lavender to the violet flavor set, which also features brisk blue and purple fruit as well as delicate cracked pepper and charred meat touches. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$60



**95** Caraccioli 2022 Passetoutgrain Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir-Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). This blend of 60% Gamay Noir and 40% Pinot Noir, based on a traditional cuvée from southern Burgundy. Dark in the glass, it shows aromas of dark plum, boysenberry, packed purple flowers and muddy loam on the nose. The palate is thick in soil and sage-brush elements that wrap around the plum and berry core, with a pastry-flake finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$45



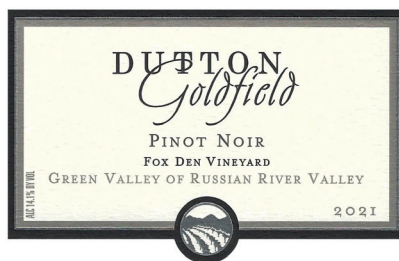
**95** Center of Effort 2021 Effort Pinot Noir (Edna Valley). For being on the entry-level side of the estate's offerings, this wine overdelivers in satisfying ways. Clean and fresh aromas of raspberry and pomegranate meet with loamy earth and wild mint on the nose. The palate is snappy with lovable red fruit and light-herb flavors, set atop a long-lasting texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40



**95** Clarice 2022 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Adam Lee's wine-making skills shine brightly in this tough vintage. Rounded aromas of strawberry, raspberry, rose pot-pourri and lavender make for an elegant and fascinating nose. The palate is also elegant, lovely and layered in flavors of red fruit and flower, with hints of purple and blue as well. A pinch of herbs finishes the experience. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$97



**95** CRU 2021 Clone 777 Sarmento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands). Fresh and bright aromas of mint-laced cherry compote and warm baking spices make for an alluring nose on this clonal expression. The palate is juicy with strawberry sorbet, cherry compote, cinnamon and star anise flavors, proving easy to enjoy. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$70



**95** Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Fox Den Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley). Excellent concentration and a firm, tangy texture are impressive in this appropriately tannic, well-balanced wine. Abundant black fruits and oak spices such as cinnamon, cedar and toast are generous on the palate and lingering on the finish. Best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$74



**95** Mark Ryan 2021 Little Sister Merlot (Columbia Valley). Mercy, this 100% Merlot is 100% fine. Black-fruited aromas entice, while chai spices and chalkboard dust notes bring it home. Supple tannins and jangly acidity drive flavors like boysenberry and orange olive oil cake laced with blueberries. The elegant mouthfeel makes it a pleasure to drink this wine. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$90

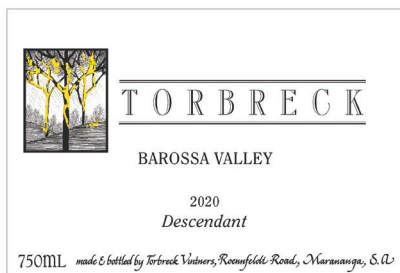


**95** Quinta das Carvalhas NV 50 Years Old Tawny (Port). Matured in wood for 50 years, this tawny Port comes from a quinta whose origins date back to 1759. From its nutty aromas to its wonderful spice and ripe dried fruits, this is an impressive wine. Concentrated and intense, it is for sipping and concentration. Like all aged tawnys, it can be drunk now. Park Street Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 20% Price: \$300



**95** Talley 2021 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley). A light hue in the glass, this single-vineyard expression from the hills that rise about the winery shows cranberry, pomegranate and bay-leaf aromas on the energized nose. The palate is both tightly wound and toasty in flavors, offering raspberry, sandalwood and allspice flavors in a complex combination. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$85





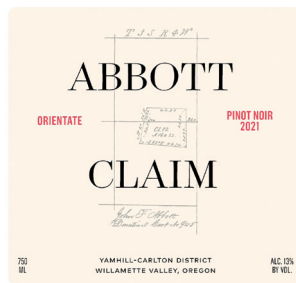
**95 Torbreck 2020 The Descendant Red Blend (Barossa Valley).** One of Torbreck's strongest bottlings, this offers an upfront lift of blue- and red-berry fruit. It's plump and sensuous, and woven with heaps of savory baking spice, saffras bark and violet aromas. The palate is equally luxurious, with rich, satiny dark fruit outlined in powerful, chalky tannins. There's ripeness, oak and alcohol aplenty, here, but in Torbreck's typical style, it still manages polish and finesse. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$150



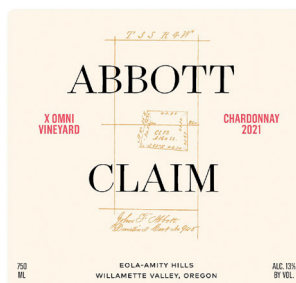
**95 Trombetta 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Brilliant, pure black cherries fill the aroma and vibrant sour cherries, red currants and black tea take over the palate as you come back for more and more sips of this elegant wine. Moderate tannins join mouth-watering acidity for great texture and the stuffing to age. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$70



**95 Winderlea 2021 Winderlea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This estate wine smells like a walk down a country lane in summer, with a bit of dust, earth and straw complementing wild blackberry and lavender aromas. Tart cherry juice and raspberry flavors unite with cinnamon and black tea notes, all supported by jangly acidity and silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80



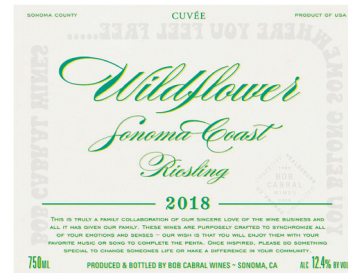
**94 Abbott Claim 2021 Orientate Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The only thing you need to orientate to is the location of the nearest bottle of this balanced beauty. Brambleberries hold aromatic court, joined by rose petals and lavender. The wine's ripe cherry and Assam tea flavors are wrapped in a garrigue ball of rosemary and lavender. Zippy acidity meets silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125



**94 Abbott Claim 2021 X-Omni Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** The Chardonnay's aromas of Golden Delicious apples and lemon are accented by traces of fig and wet slate. A lithe and nimble texture is at home with brisk acidity and tart flavors of lime zest and pineapple, with a dollop of pear. Try this graceful wine with an assorted sashimi plate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125



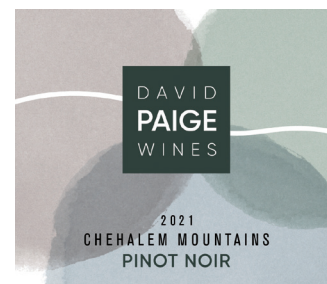
**94 Aveleda 2022 Solos de Granito (Vinho Verde).** While there is a strongly mineral texture, the wine also has a ripe, rounded edge that gives it weight. Creamy Alvarinho shines strongly, illuminating the wine's power. Drink from 2025. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



**94 Bob Cabral Wines 2018 Wildflower Riesling (Sonoma Coast).** Rose petals, petrol and grapefruit zest pack the dramatic aromas of this light-bodied, lean and palate-cleansing wine. Flavors of white peach, tangerine and lime chime in on the palate, braced by nervy, appetizing acidity. It's a brilliant version of Riesling that could pass as a Mosel wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$60

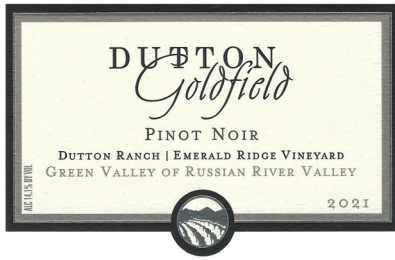


**94 Castello Bonomi 2009 Riserva Lucrezia Etichetta Bianca Extra Brut (Franciacorta).** The Lucrezia Riserva is a blend of 70% Pinot Noir and 30% Chardonnay, and opens with aromas of nectarine and apple tart, acacia honey, clove, cinnamon and vanilla. The palate is both broad and rich, but has a cut of minerality and acidity that keeps it fresh and will continue to allow this wine to age. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$155

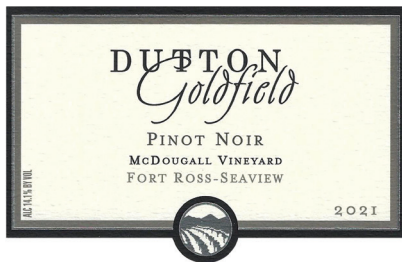


**94 David Paige 2021 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** This is a Goldilocks wine where everything is just right. The wine's blackberry and lavender aromas meld with a dusty chalk note and a touch of citrus. The fruit on the palate is equally dark, with black currants joined by bursts of Earl Grey tea, dried black cherries and cardamom, backed by crisp acidity and silky tannins. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$62





**94 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Dutton Ranch Emerald Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** An elegant wrapping of mild tannins reveals lots of fresh dark plums, black cherries and cinnamon spice in this easy-sipping, nicely concentrated wine. The focused, pure red and black fruits are delicious on the palate and linger nicely on the finish. —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$74



**94 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 McDougall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** This attractive, well-structured wine wraps vibrant red and black cherries in good, moderate tannins for an appetizing bite that will mellow slightly with time. Medium to full bodied, the wine is dressed in cloves, cedar and cinnamon accents from oak aging. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$78



**94 Elk Cove 2021 La Bohème Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** La Bohème is a wine in four acts. The opening notes of black cherry compote, basil, grilled meat, cedar and orange zest strike a chord. The second act features dramatic flavors like Damson plum, blackcap raspberry and toasted marshmallow. Then one sits and admires the wine's piercing trill of acidity and baritone tannins. The final act is a long finish, with an ovation. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
abv: 14% Price: \$70



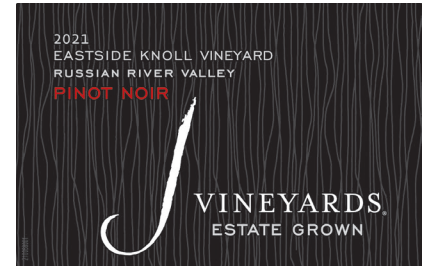
**94 Far Niente 2022 Post & Beam Chardonnay (Carneros).** Subtle oak complexity, rich fruit flavors and a creamy texture add up to an outstanding wine. Aromas of toasted oak and vanilla lead to baked pears, golden apples and a twist of lemon in this nicely balanced, intricate offering. —J.G.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$40



**94 Head High 2022 Syrah (Sonoma County).** Potent flavors of black fruits, black pepper, star anise and oak char give a big punch to this firmly textured wine. It is balanced nicely on a big scale, offering enervating, fine-grained tannins and subtle acidity to back the ripe and spicy fruits. Best from 2025. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30



**94 J Vineyards & Winery 2019 Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Blend (Russian River Valley).** A doughy, nicely earthy complexity in the nose leads to a palate rich with candied lemons, golden apples and fresh ginger on supple, supportive texture that makes the mouth water. Worthy of a special occasion, the wine contains 75% Pinot Noir and 25% Pinot Meunier. Best through 2029. —J.G.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65



**94 J Vineyards & Winery 2021 Eastside Knoll Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Rich and focused black fruits drive this robust, concentrated wine as moderate tannins and acidity add the needed structure. Plenty of blackberries, black cherries and blueberries coat the palate and linger on the finish. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65



**94 J. Lohr 2019 Cuvée Pau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Dense aromas of black plum and blackberry are spiced with ample nutmeg shavings on the nose of this Pauillac-motivated bottling. The palate is plush, yet still chalky and edgy with tannins, offering rich flavors of baked fruit, spice cake and toasty wood. —M.K.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$50

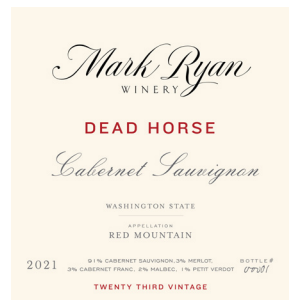


**94 J. Lohr 2019 Cuvée Pom Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Fresh aromas of blackberry, intense violet, elegant herbs and peppercorns show on the nose of this proprietary blend that pays homage to Pomerol. The palate shows blueberry, almond cream and toasted-wood flavors, with a firm tannic frame and lively acidity pushing through the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$50

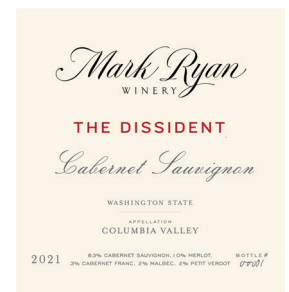




**94 La Fornace 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts light and inviting, as floral aromas flirt with a subtle woodiness, then turns umami with notes of soil and herbs. The evolution continues on the palate, as cranberries and cherries usher in a vibrant astringency. Disciplined tannins and acid provide structure for it all. Vignaioli Selection. —D.C. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80



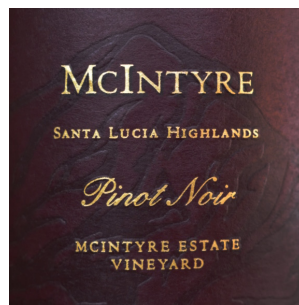
**94 Mark Ryan 2021 Dead Horse Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** Blackberry, anise and leather aromas form the best power trio since the Jimi Hendrix Experience. You also can't beat the Dead Horse's boysenberry gelato and bittersweet dark chocolate flavors. Additional notes of thyme and fennel provide support, along with elegant, silky tannins and bright acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A. **abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$70



**94 Mark Ryan 2021 The Dissident Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The Dissident was held in French oak, 37% new, for 18 months. The wine's aromas of ripe blackberries and orange Curaçao mix it up with notes of graphite and fennel. The Dissident's thick, concentrated flavors of dark raspberries and mocha are punctuated by saline and white tea. The Dissident is a defiant hedonist. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A. **abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45



**94 Mark Ryan 2021 Wild Eyed Syrah (Red Mountain).** This wild one brings the earthy funk to escort aromas like blackberry, seared steak and saline. Blackberry compote, thyme and lemon basil flavors join bits of bacon fat and espresso. The wine's elevated acidity and velvety tannins help to create a slippery mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A. **abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50



**94 McIntyre Family Wines 2019 McIntyre Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Lively aromas of raspberry sorbet, smashed mint and rose petals make for a fresh and zippy nose on this bottling. It's very light on its feet through the sip, with rose and geranium flavors elevating the crisp pomegranate and mint flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K. **abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50



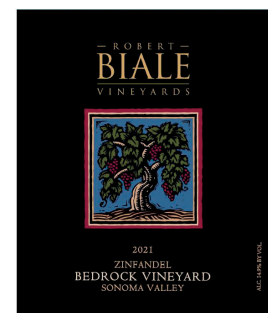
**94 Metz Road 2021 Riverview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Winemaker Casey DiCesare's ongoing experiment to ferment grapes with true native yeast in the middle of a vineyard continues to impress. This vintage is the best yet, offering savory aromas of sage-crusted pork chop in a lemon peel-cranberry sauce on the nose. The palate is loaded with thyme and more chaparral spice that enliven the raspberry and cranberry flavors. —M.K. **abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



**94 ONX 2019 Black Orchid Petite Sirah (Templeton Gap District).** Petite Sirah has a good home with this brand, which is able to match rich and savory notes to spice and acid. Aromas of roasted meat, caramelized plum, mulberry and peppery jerky entertain the nose. The palate is viscous and savory in soy and dry-aged beef flavors, with blackberry notes and acidity rising into the finish. —M.K. **abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$54



**94 ONX 2020 Praetorian Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).** This is an intense, complex and ultimately very likable blend of 67% Tempranillo, 21% Petite Sirah and 12% Malbec. Aromas of boysenberry smoothie and fresh lilac on the nose lead into a palate where dark fruit flavors ride a powerful yet smoothed out set of tannins. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K. **abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$58

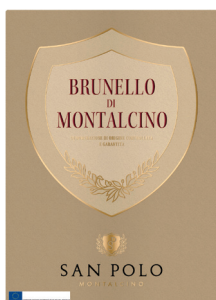


**94 Robert Biale 2021 Bedrock Vineyard Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** Hints of oak toast and black pepper mingle with deep, rich blackberry and boysenberry flavors in this big, broad but only moderately tannic wine. It is nicely dry, well balanced and ready to pair with a beef brisket or osso buco. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G. **abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60





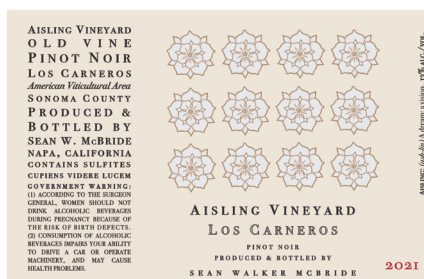
**94 San Polo 2018 Podernovi (Brunello di Montalcino).** The light nose features both fruit notes of strawberry and cherry and vegetal aromas of fennel and fresh soil, along with a light woodiness. On the palate, a smear of strawberry jam receives a dusting of herbs, while refined tannins and positively boiling acid bolster a flinty, metallic undertone. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



**94 San Polo 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The primarily earthy, sanguine nose gets some pop from the slightly astringent sweetness of plums. That pleasing dynamism continues on the palate, before eventually giving way to a chocolatey, coffee finish. Grippy yet pliant tannins provide structure, while acid brings the heat. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA



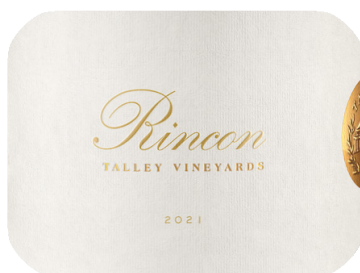
**94 San Polo 2018 Vignavecchia (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose initially features a textured sweetness of fruit leather, cherry candy, figs and oranges, then takes an umami turn towards wet, fallen leaves, mushrooms and soy sauce. The figs and oranges star on the palate, but a bitter cocoa undercurrent maintains balance, as acid sparkles around tightly coiled tannins. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA



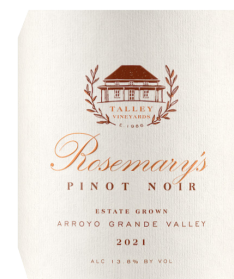
**94 Sean W. McBride 2021 Aisling Vineyard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Earthy, stemmy, mushroomy aromas go to a good and mysterious place as this full, but deceptively light-bodied, savory and distinctive wine fascinates with each sip. Enticing sour cherry and dark-plum flavors lurk beneath the woody complexity. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32



**94 Talbott 2021 Fidelity Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Tightly wound on the nose, this bottling offers light hints of coconut, honey dust and French toast spices on the engaging nose. The palate's chalky texture holds the attention long into the finish, as lychee, white melon, pineapple and baking-spice flavors rely on restraint to paint a full picture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$90



**94 Talley 2021 Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Energetic lemonzest aromas cut through the toasty, salty nut elements on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate plays a similar trick, pairing zippy Meyer lemon peel and grapefruit flavors with warmer almond and sea salt touches. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60



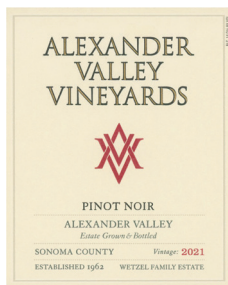
**94 Talley 2021 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** Enticing red cherry and pomegranate aromas gain depth from the fennel pollen and crushed thyme elements on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate is tense and snappy with bright acidity, as raspberry flavors meet with wild mint and light tarragon. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$95



**94 Tasca d'Almerita 2019 Tenuta Regaleali Vigna San Francesco Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia).** The nose is cool but intense, with notes of tart fruit and spices wafting around a potent stoniness. The fruit sweetens on the palate, but an enduring kick of pepper and firm, formidable tannins preserve this wine's earthy but vibrant core. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65



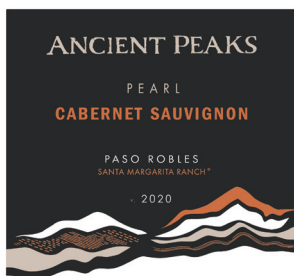
**94 Winderlea 2021 Legacy Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This wine walks the walk of the name Legacy. Beautiful balance and restrained alcohol are just part of the picture. Cranberry, orange zest and cinnamon aromas are flanked by notes of saline and loamy soil. Tart cherry and lemon flavors are accompanied by tiny bits of Earl Grey tea and brown sugar. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$105



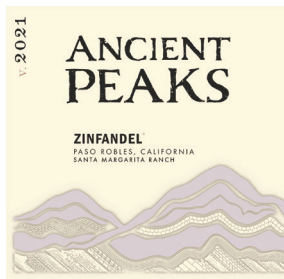
**93 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2021 Wetzel Family Estate Pinot Noir (Alexander Valley).** While Alexander Valley is not known for Pinot Noir, this one is an outlier. Deep, black cherries, cloves and cinnamon waft up from the glass. Rich, ripe, almost roasted flavors bathe the palate in black fruits, cardamom and woody notes underlain by moderate tannins and a soothing texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35



**93 Allegriani 2020 La Grola (Veronese).** La Grola has been a stalwart wine of the Allegriani family since 1989. This 90% Corvina and 10% Oseleta blend opens with aromas of black plum, macerated black cherries, clove, cinnamon, black pepper and violets. As the wine further opens, cedar, cigar box and tobacco notes develop. On the palate, there is a dance between rich black-hued fruits and taut well-structured tannins as savory and earthy notes add to the intrigue. Maze Row Wine Merchant. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42



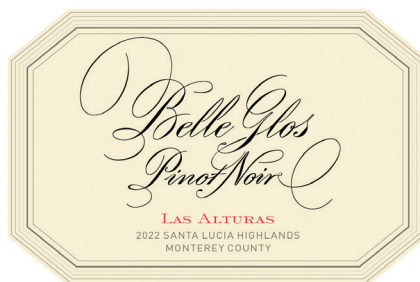
**93 Ancient Peaks 2020 Pearl Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Margarita Ranch).** Dark in the glass, this is a dense expression from the estate's top blocks, offering aromas of elderberry, açai and intense purple flowers on the nose. The palate is rich and ripe with candied violet, blueberry and elderflower flavors, all wrapped in tight tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$72



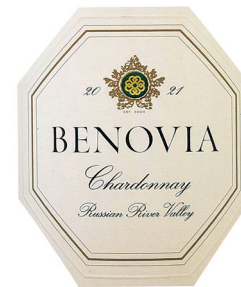
**93 Ancient Peaks 2021 Zinfandel (Santa Margarita Ranch).** This is a very successful Zinfandel, blending earth, spice and fruit into a savory, yet thirst-quenching package. Aromas of cherry, toasted almond, thyme and asphalt lead from the nose into a tense palate of blueberry, oregano, peppercorn and spicy red-flower flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$22



**93 Aveleda 2022 Solos de Xisto (Vinho Verde).** The schist soil gives its name to this fine wine. It has intense citrus and white fruits, shot through with minerality. A rich wine, dense and with a texture that will allow it to age. Drink from 2025. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25



**93 Belle Glos 2022 Las Alturas Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Deep and dark aromas of black cherry, sandalwood and incense make for a heady nose on this bottling. The palate is big and bold, loaded with ripe black cherry and boysenberry flavors, as peppery, incense-like spices add complexity and the texture stays lusciously creamy. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55



**93 Benovia 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Nice and full in body, creamy in texture and well supplied with baked apple and poached pear flavors, this wine sips smoothly, showing more vanilla, coconut and butter nuances with time in the glass. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48



**93 Blair 2018 DRC/943/115 Delfina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** This bottling of three clones, including one apparently from a famous Burgundian estate, delivers a compelling and complex experience. Aromas of cherry cream, bay leaf, sagebrush and pine needle lead into a palate loaded with forest floor, cranberry and cherry flavors. It finishes on a warming baking-spice note. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55



**93 Bodegas Escudero 2015 Solar de Becquer Reserva (Rioja).** This intriguing wine is ruby-colored and has aromas of red currant, black plum and wild blueberry. In the mouth bright fruit flavors dance across your tongue and are sheathed by suede-like tannins. There's a touch of freshly ground black pepper in the finish. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60





**93 Bricoleur 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Great balance, an appetizing structure and classic fruit-spice flavors make this medium-bodied wine a good one to stock up on. Welcoming aromas of red and black cherries, cinnamon and cloves lead to a deep, pure fruit expression and lively tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65



**93 Caraccioli 2022 Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Gamay Noir continues to excite in cool-climate settings and this bottling is no slouch, starting with aromas of black raspberry, rainy clay, dewy sage and spearmint on the nose. The palate offers pomegranate, raspberry and rose-oil flavors, as the slight hint of game arises toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45



**93 Castillo de Enériz 2018 Reserva (Navarra).** A bouquet of blackberry, Mission fig, sage leaf and dark chocolate leads the way for cassis, black cherry, mocha, dried thyme and anisette flavors. Equally weighted bold tannins and bright acidity duel on the palate to see which can hold out longer. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28



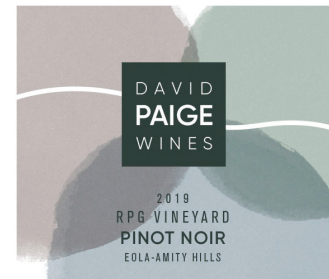
**93 Champagne Palmer 2015 Grands Terroirs (Champagne).** A blend from premier and grand crus on the Montagne de Reims, this is an elegant Champagne. The Pinot Noir gives the wine weight and richness, contrasting with the vibrant white fruits and acidity. It is a balanced, fine wine that shows some maturity. Drink now. Quintessential. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$145



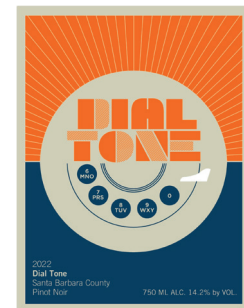
**93 Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico 2021 La Cartuja Llicorella (Priorat).** An elegant bouquet of dried cherries and rose petal leads to flavors of black cherry, Mission fig, licorice, dried thyme and a touch of caramel set into a layer of polished tannins. There is a soft whiff of flinty smoke that endures into the smooth finish. Olé & Obrigado. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**93 CRU 2021 Smith & Lindley Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Delicately pleasant aromas of peach and lime pick up a rocky edge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense and salty, with peach and baked-pear flavors slipping into a long, slightly savory finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25



**93 David Paige 2019 RPG Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The RPG's aromas are an elegant perfume of red cherries and rose petals dried in a dusty old book. Lip-smacking acidity drives flavors like dark plums, lime zest, oregano and dark chocolate. Each sip makes the palate vibrate like the metallic field of a 1960s electric football game. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$82



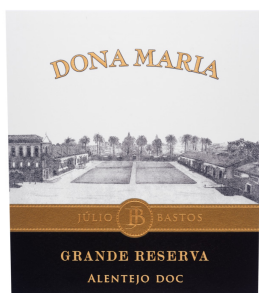
**93 Dial Tone 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** This county cuvée by veteran vintner Adam Lee checks a lot of boxes for rich Pinot Noir for a fair price. Black cherry, star anise and warm cardamom aromas meet with a dark earth tone on the nose. The palate is fuller bodied with bold fruit and spice flavors and an impressive tannic frame. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$29



**93 Domaine Anderson 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Vivacious from the go, with pronounced aromas of black cherry and plum, bittersweet cacao, blackberry bush, bramble and mushroomy forest floor. The palate follows through, adding additional layering of black tea and violet potpourri. Let the fine-grained tannins tickle your tongue, the vibrant acidity give you that prickle of energy and that long, lengthy finish convince you of another sip. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$55



**93** **Domaine Divio 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This reserve offering features an earthy combination of loamy soil and grilled button mushrooms, with notes of cherry and saline. Flavor-wise, this is a red cherry show supported by menthol and Keemun tea. The tannins are grippy, with elevated acidity providing balance. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45



**93** **Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2018 Grande Reserva (Alentejo).** The rich wine produced from old vines was fermented in open-top stone lagars. That fermentation gives it a smooth texture and great richness. Black fruits and generous tannins have developed well and could benefit from further aging. The wine is dense, concentrated and will be ready to drink from 2024. MS Walker. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$59



**93** **Elk Cove 2021 Goodrich Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Blackberries and honeysuckle form an aromatic trio with a touch of balsa wood. The wine's dark raspberry jam on toast flavors blend with notes of rosemary and orange zest. The tannins are of the silky variety, with a round-in-the-mouth feel and a laser beam of acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70



**93** **Elk Cove 2021 Roosevelt Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** The Roosevelt is as majestic as the elk it is named for. Aromas of blackberries, violets and seared steak are accented by notes of orange pith and leather. Silky tannins and elevated acidity support a set of flavors that range from ripe black-cap raspberry to tangy hibiscus tea. Drink 2025–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85



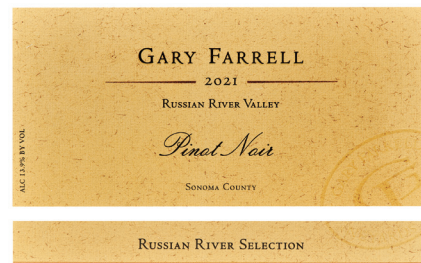
**93** **Enodav 2021 Carthage Vineyard Grenache (Yakima Valley).** Enodav's single vineyard Grenache is a doozy. Its blackberry and blueberry aromas are accented by sweet wisps of hyacinth and honeycomb. The wine's acidity, fruit, alcohol and tannins are in balance, with flavors of blackberry, bacon fat, saline, warm corn tortillas and cedar. What's not to love? *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$35



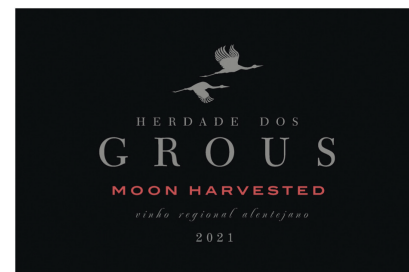
**93** **Field Recordings 2022 Nolan Ranch Xarel.lo (Alisos Canyon).** Certainly one of the more obscure grapes to gain a tiny Central Coast foothold in recent years, this bottling of Xarel.lo offers aromas of white flower, coconut and hollowed-out apple on the nose. There's a persistent sizzle of acidity that cuts across the palate, as wet clay and zesty lemon flavors linger. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$39



**93** **Field Recordings 2022 Skins White Blend (Central Coast).** One of the most popular wines in the Field Recordings' lineup, this skin-contact blend of 35% Chenin Blanc, 35% Pinot Gris, 12% Albariño, 12% Riesling, 4% Tocai Friuliano and 2% Verdelho really is fascinating. The pinkish-orange wine carries aromas of strawberry, red plum, rose water and melon rinds from the nose into a deeply textural palate, loaded in red apple and white-flower flavors. Believe the hype. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25



**93** **Gary Farrell 2021 Russian River Selection Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Focused, pure red and black cherries infuse this wine with fruit intensity from the first whiff to the tangy, lip-smacking finish. Sour cherries, rhubarb, moderate tannins and bracing acidity all add to its tangy allure. Best from 2022–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50

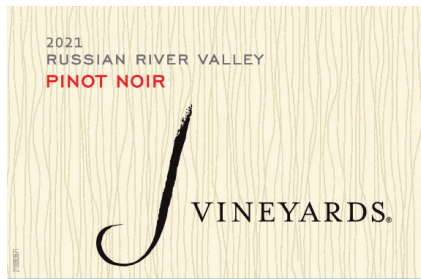


**93** **Herdade dos Grous 2021 Moon Harvested (Alentejano).** Harvested at night to preserve the freshness of the fruit, this wine is rich with a dark color and full black fruits. It has succulence that comes from the acidity contrasting with the tannins. Drink this wine as it integrates further from 2026. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39





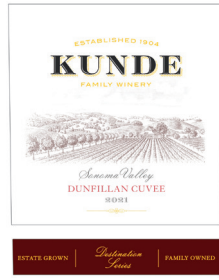
**93 Iron Horse 2015 Stargazing Cuvée Brut Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** This subtle, intricate and apparently bone-dry wine brings together enticing crisp apples and baking spices in the aroma before tasty but restrained lemon zest, apple peel and toasted baguette notes highlight the palate, while crisp acidity gives an appetizing texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$195/1.5 L



**93 J Vineyards & Winery 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A leafy aroma, carrots and celery flavors merge beautifully with fresh raspberry and red cherry notes in this well-balanced, fresh-tasting and nicely tangy wine. The fruit notes seem to grow riper and richer with each sip, and linger on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$47



**93 J. Lohr 2022 Fog's Reach Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** This widely available bottling should satisfy most people's desires in a domestic Pinot Noir. Boisterous aromas of pomegranate, cherry compote, toasted sage and bay leaf combine the fruit with the earth. The palate is joyous in black cherry-cola flavors, as a bright acidity and peppery spice fires up the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35



**93 Kunde 2021 Destination Series Dunfillan Cuvée Estate Red Blend (Sonoma Valley).** This bold, concentrated and full-bodied wine lifts dark plums, milk chocolate and blueberry flavors on firm, well-integrated tannins. It is formidable at this age and needs a good decanting. Should improve through at least 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35



**93 MacRostie 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** This big but balanced wine is packed with vivid green apple, Bosc pear and Danish pastry flavors on a full body and creamy texture. An element of lemon zest and tangy apricot chimes in as you sip, providing a mouthwatering tang. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28



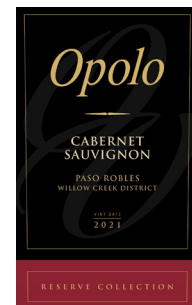
**93 Marimar 2019 Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This soothing, broad and handsome wine from the consistent producer Marimar Torres is rich in warm spices, balsam and forest-floor aromas followed by velvety strawberry, black plum and black-tea flavors cloaked in soft tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$58



**93 Mark Ryan 2021 Monkey Wrench Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** A refreshing black cherry popsicle aroma blazes a path for notes of leather and a cold mug of sarsaparilla. There's some nice tannic structure to go along with surprisingly brisk acidity. They help to provide a sense of balance in the face of a wall of black cherry fruit that's surfed by cardamom and dried blueberries. Cowabunga. —M.A.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35



**93 ONX 2020 Brash Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).** Dark and focused aromas of black plum, cassis, dried violet and soy sauce is quite rich and sure to please heavy Zin enthusiasts, and this one is empowered by 30% Petite Sirah. The palate is quite savory with salty charcuterie and soy-braised beef flavors, as the black plum and roasted-fig jam elements add the fruit core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$48



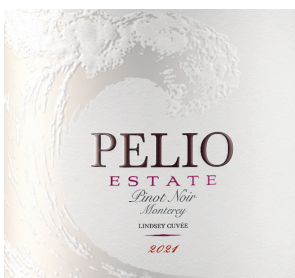
**93 Opolo 2021 Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Mocha, blackberry sauce and dark wood spice converge on the nose of this reserve bottling. The creamy but still-firm tannins frame flavors of toasted mahogany, blackened walnut, blackberry and cocoa on the palate, where long-lingering tannins pick up a vanilla spice on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55



**93 Ottella 2020 Molceo Riserva (Lugana).** This riserva Lugana opens with aromas of baked nectarine with an almond crumble, followed by wafting notes of pressed wildflowers and poached lemon peel. The palate is rich, showing a lime and tropical-fruit cream note topped with sea salt, but balanced by the electric acidity on the finish. Super tasty! Vias Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$37



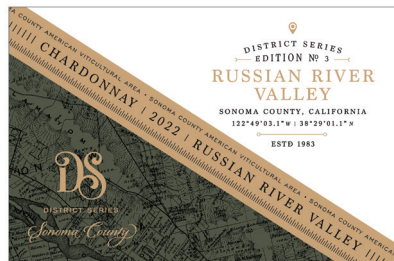
**93 Pedroncelli 2021 Sonoma Classico Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley).** Simply delicious, broad and welcoming, this full-bodied wine wafts chocolate, cherries and toast aromas, and incorporates warm, ripe dark plums, blueberries and black cherries in the mouth. Moderate tannins match the generous flavors for a wine that's drinkable now or later. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$24



**93 Pelio 2021 Lindsey Cuvée Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Dark, elegant purple-flower aromas meet with wood spice and clean berry scents on the nose of this bottling. It's very well structured on the texturally tremendous palate, where berry-pie flavors are cleaned up by a zesty acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$57



**93 Penfolds 2021 Bin 28 Shiraz (South Australia).** This inky-hued Shiraz is dense, ripe and powerful with quite a bit of oak on display. Chocolate and dusting polish perch atop the concentrated dark fruit and pepper spice on the nose. The palate is rich and luscious, framed in muscular tannins that support, rather than overpower. Classic Penfolds, this drinks well now with protein but could cellar for several more years. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40



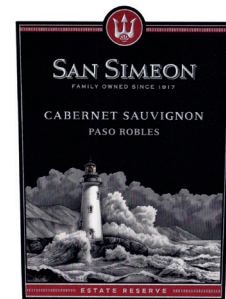
**93 Precision Wine 2022 District Series Edition No. 3 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Smooth and relaxed, this elegant wine coats the palate with peaches, poached pears, butter and toast without overdoing any of them. Great layering and creaminess are balanced by a touch of lemony acidity, so it should be very versatile in food pairings. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30



**93 Reynolds Family Winery 2022 Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Woodsy, mossy, oolong-tea aromas and flavors make this wine fascinating to sniff and sip, while a gentle texture with light tannins gives a slight grip on the palate. It's a wonderful wine for those interested in complexity and a savory profile. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50



**93 Robert Biale 2021 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** Deep, dark and super-smooth, this chocolaty wine seems to melt in the mouth, pouring luscious cocoa, baked plums, and raspberry syrup over the palate. It's practically a dessert in itself, but can also shine with spicy meats or chocolate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60



**93 San Simeon 2020 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Intense and dark aromas of black plum and berry are tucked behind the cocoa, leather and baking-spice aromas on the nose of this reserve bottling sourced from three vineyards and including 20% Petit Verdot. The palate is seriously structured and grippy in texture, as mint chocolate chip ice cream and boysenberry flavors make for a flavorful, yet restrained sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80



**93 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley).** This is a powerful Pinot Noir, beginning with aromas of ripe cherry, plum, alpine strawberry and sage brush on the nose. The palate approaches blackberry and boysenberry flavors, as nutmeg and gingersnap elements add spicy nuances. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$52

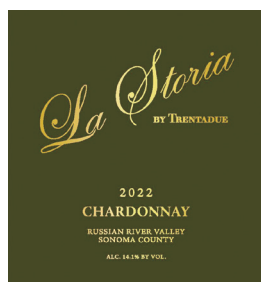




**93 Talbott 2021 Fidelity Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** This is a savory and complex style of Pinot Noir, starting with smoked meat and muddled-plum aromas on the nose. The palate is detailed in texture, carrying flavors of roasted strawberry, crushed asphalt and light caramel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$100



**93 Torres 2020 Secret del Priorat (Priorat).** The color of cherry pie filling, this wine has a nose of blackberry preserves, dried cranberry and baking spices. Velvety tannins provide a backdrop for black cherry, Chambord, ground black pepper, clove and butterscotch flavors. Soft notes of rose petal and smoke linger on the palate. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30



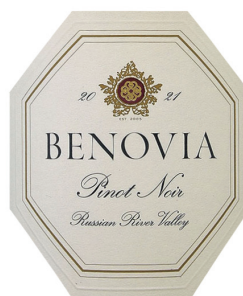
**93 Trentadue 2022 La Storia Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A rich gold color and toasty, salted-peanut aromas give way to mouth-filling flavors of pear nectar and baking spices. This full-bodied, pastry-like confection feels rich, syrupy and lasts long on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$32



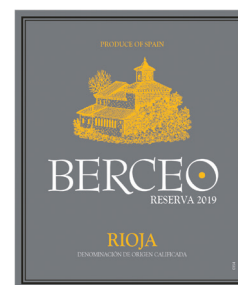
**93 Winderlea 2021 Worden Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** From its restrained alcohol and bright acidity to silky tannins and creamy texture, this wine is grace personified. Bing cherry and blueberry gelato aromas join forces with wee notes of bone marrow and rosemary. Tart red cherry and tangerine flavors last seemingly forever, joined by a marjoram burst. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$70



**92 Belle Glos 2022 Clark & Telephone Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** This is a bold Pinot Noir, ideal for the steakhouse. Aromas of roasted boysenberry, rose and violet lead from the nose into a ripe palate of lush black cherry, cocoa and caramel flavors. The wine retains some freshness while veering toward sweetness. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$55



**92 Benovia 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This dark-colored and ripe-tasting wine offers bold black cherries and dark plums over a full body and moderate tannins. It has the depth and power to pair well with steaks, chops and braises and can age well for a few years. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55



**92 Bodegas Berceo 2019 Berceo Reserva (Rioja).** This tasty wine is ruby-colored in the glass with aromas of new saddle leather, red plum, and ripe red cherry with flavors of ripe red plum, black raspberry, dried savory herbs and cigar box. The tannins are silky and the mouthfeel is generous with a persistent finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36



**92 Bodegas Escudero 2018 Logos Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra).** This deep violet-red wine has a nose of blackberry, violet and pencil lead. It is bright at first sip, filling the mouth with red berry flavors accompanied by notes of menthol, milk chocolate, cherry pipe tobacco and clove that are sheathed in a layer of downy tannins. The finish is marked with a soft note of lavender. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30



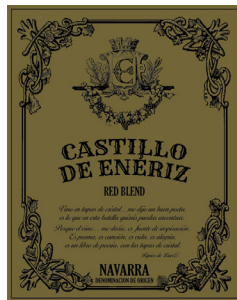
**92 Bricoleur 2022 Founder's Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A sweet red cherry aroma wafts from the glass before sleek black cherries, cinnamon and a hint of vanilla bring the flavors to a good level of pleasure. A mouth-filling, polished texture enhances the wine's tempting spices and dried-fruit notes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60



**92 Carneros Highway 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Very broad in texture and ultraripe in flavor, this wine is steeped in mulled cherries, dried plums and savory accents on a medium body with relaxed tannins. The big, rich fruit flavors suggest pairing with equally bold roasts and braises, or sipping after dinner. —J.G.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$25



**92 Castillo de Enériz 2022 Tinto (Navarra).** Spicy notes of black pepper and jalapeño accompany cherry and violet aromas. A touch of spice continues on the palate, encased in plush tannins and black cherry, Mission fig and violet flavors. A soft floral note remains on the taste buds. Manzanos Wines USA. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21



**92 Clay Shannon 2020 The David Red Blend (Lake County).** Lovely, layered, complex and interesting—this David guy’s got it all. Intense aromatics immediately waft out of the glass: violets, fresh cedar wood, black cherry, boysenberry, star anise and bitter cacao. Medium to full bodied, the palate offers a generous dose of acidity that perfectly cuts through the chalky tannic texture and enhances flavors with additional notes of black plum, black pepper and juniper. —S.B.

abv: 14.5%

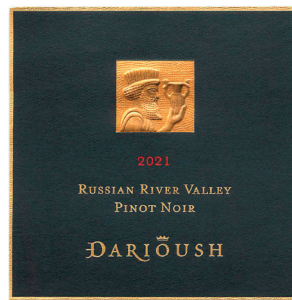
Price: \$29



**92 CRU 2021 G-S-M (Paso Robles).** Dark cherry aromas meet with hints of hickory and smoked nuts on the nose of this blend of 40% Grenache, 36% Syrah and 24% Mourvèdre. The palate pops with fresher strawberry and hibiscus, with layers of tea leaf, oregano and marjoram adding depth. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

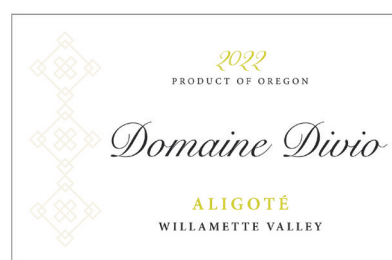
Price: \$25



**92 Darioush 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This elegant, fruity but also nicely spiced wine layers together raspberries, red cherries and orange-peko tea flavors that are judiciously accented with cinnamon and cedar from oak barrel aging. Well balanced and silky on the palate, it’s a pleasure to drink through 2028 or so. —J.G.

abv: 14.6%

Price: \$88



**92 Domaine Divio 2022 Aligoté (Willamette Valley).** There’s a nifty saline and earth aroma here that reminded me of a to-go cup of boiled peanuts—a great thing in my book. That transcendent aroma is surrounded by notes of Meyer lemon and pear. Brisk acidity and flavors like tangerine and lemon basil make for lively sipping. —M.A.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$32



**92 Enodav 2021 Maremma Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** It’s not often one encounters a 50-50 blend of Sangiovese and Petit Verdot. Based on the Maremma’s beautiful cherry and oatmeal cookie aromas, with chocolate chips, perhaps more people should give it a try. The wine’s tart blackberry and bacon fat flavors are accented by a bit of green tea and great acidity. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$55



**92 Falkner 2021 Vintner’s Reserve Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Blueberry and violet aromas make for a familiar entry to the nose of this Syrah. The mouthfeel is quite full on the palate, where the blueberry core is enhanced with rosemary and peppercorn as tannins rise into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 16.2%

Price: \$100

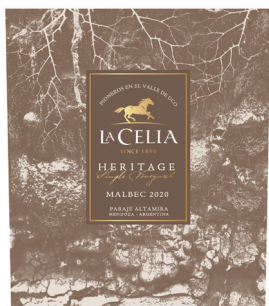


**92 Fiddlehead Cellars 2016 Oldville Pinot Noir (Oregon).** Produced in California with fruit grown in the Willamette Valley’s Alloro Vineyard, this “hands across the border” Pinot Noir begins with dark red cherry and wild game aromas, followed by saline and garrigue notes. An elegant mouthfeel and frisky acidity guide flavors like raspberries, grilled portobello mushrooms and thyme. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.

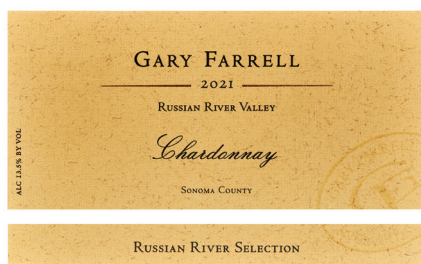
abv: 13.7%

Price: \$60

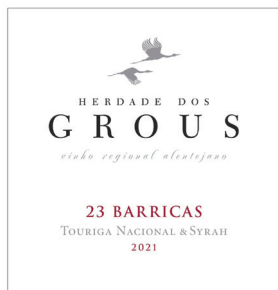




**92** **Finca la Celia 2020 Heritage Single Vineyard Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** This fresh and tasty red opens with aromas of violets, cassis and berries. It's juicy and features a fair amount of fruit flavors. Raspberry, red plum and spices make an elegant combination on the structured palate. VSPT USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40



**92** **Gary Farrell 2021 Russian River Selection Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A flinty aroma, nervy acidity and lean, crisp fruit flavors give this medium-bodied wine a rather restrained expression at first, as notes of minerals and smoke dominate light green-apple fruit flavors. Then the wine opens in the glass to show greater depth and breadth with more sipping. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40



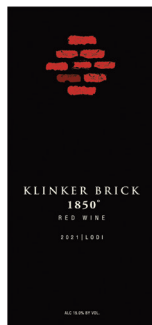
**92** **Herdade dos Grous 2021 23 Barricas (Alentejano).** Selected from the best 23 barrels of Touriga Nacional and Syrah, the wine is rich, wood aged for 12 months. Its texture, backed by some firm tannins, is open and generous with warm black fruits. The ripe fruit and density contrast with the acidity from further aging. Drink from 2026. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39



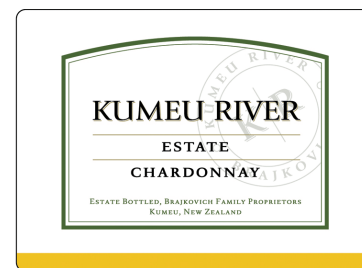
**92** **J. Lohr 2019 Cuvée St. E Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This ode to St. Emilion is quite dense and oaky on the nose, offering caramel, cassis and berry sauce aromas. The tannins are expertly managed on the palate, giving texture the anise-tinged blackberry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50



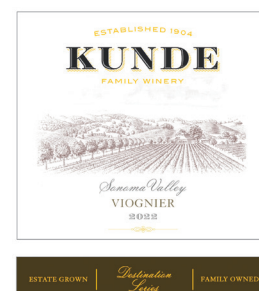
**92** **King Estate 2022 Artisan Series Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is a new one for me from King Estate. I loved the perfume-like aromatics of blackcap raspberries, violets and warm candlewax. Nicely balanced, the Artisan's tingly acidity and firm tannins frame flavors like blackberry, caramel and saline. A creamy texture is merely a bonus. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29



**92** **Klinker Brick 2021 1850° Red Blend (Lodi).** This wine is a complete bang-for-the-buck, punching way above its \$28 price point. Generously concentrated notes of boysenberries straight from the bush, bramble, crunchy forest floor, fennel, licorice, bittersweet cacao and crushed violets fill every sniff and sip. The palate incorporates firm, structural tannins, modest acidity and—thanks to the voluptuousness of the fruit—carries the high (15%) alcohol quite well. Drink now. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$28



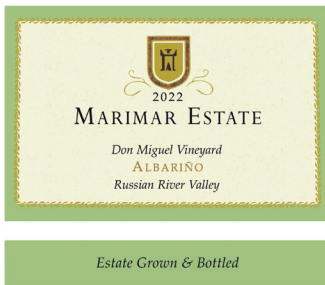
**92** **Kumeu River 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Kumeu).** A flinty, roasted nut character edges the zingy tropical, peach and melon fruit. It follows on the palate where power is tempered by a saltwater-like acidity. The fruit concentration holds up the toasty oak. This is a rich and currently quite oak-prominent wine but one that remains balanced and deftly executed. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40



**92** **Kunde 2022 Signature Series Estate Viognier (Sonoma Valley).** Butter and butterscotch notes play a good, supporting role in this ripe-tasting, mouth-filling wine, as baked apples and poached pears take the spotlight. A full body carries the wine's richness through a lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



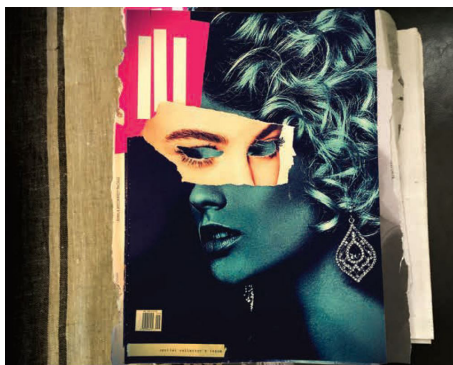
**92** **Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Clone 6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** From block 11 in the Valley View Vineyard, this is always a favorite of founder Louis Lucas, and this vintage shines. Aromas of smoked meat, pecan and dark cherry lead from the nose into a savory, complex palate of espresso bean, caramel, cocoa and walnut oil. Cassis flavors provide the fruit base. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$88



**92 Marimar 2022 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Albariño (Russian River Valley).** Opening with apples, apricots, and green-apple skin aromas, this deceptively full-bodied wine is grippy in texture, dry, refreshing and tangy. A light bitter almond note on the palate and finish adds some tension. Pairs well with simple toasted almonds, cheeses and dried meats. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34



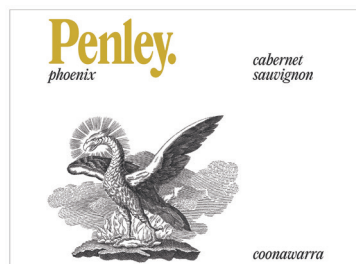
**92 McKinley Springs 2022 Estate Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** I thoroughly enjoyed this wine's soft texture and sense of balance. The wine smells like a beautiful perfume based on violets, with tangy boysenberries playing a supporting role. A blackberry and bergamot combination continues that theme, with additional notes of marzipan and cedar. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



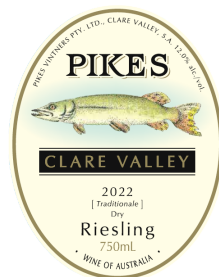
**92 Orin Swift 2022 Blank Stare Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Savory, salty, mineral aromas lead to a soothing, full body filled out with generous gooseberries, melons and saline accents. The wine shows a spicy oak influence, but retains the grape variety's appealing citrus and fresh herb nuances. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$40



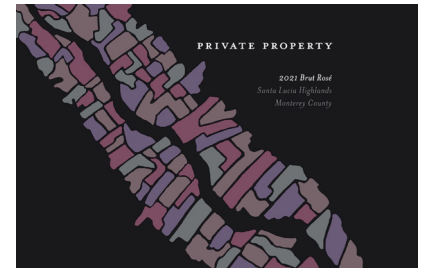
**92 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Huntington Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** This larger production bottling for the winery always delivers, starting this vintage with pomegranate, raspberry jam, toasted herb and light pepper aromas. The palate is lively in peppery spice and layered in floral geranium and rose flavors, with a texture that grips into the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32



**92 Penley Estate 2021 Phoenix Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** The dusty, iron-rich terra rossa soils show on this Coonawarra Cab. There's brambly blackberry and black-cherry fruit along with warm earth-meets-iodine vibes and some minty, peppery nuances, too. Lifted acidity and chalky, salivazapping tannins dominate the palate. There's fruit and spice, too—they just need time to come to the fore. Drink with rare protein or cellar up to around 2035. Old Bridge Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21



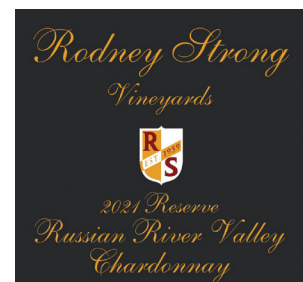
**92 Pikes 2022 Traditionale Dry Riesling (Clare Valley).** A vibrant, transparent perfume of lime zest, white blossoms, orange essence and chalk leads. Racy acidity on the palate cuts through a slippery texture, leaving tangy citrus flavors lingering long on the finish. Highly refreshing and a bargain for the quality. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25



**92 Private Property 2021 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For being the Caraccioli family's entry-level sparkling, this bubbly hits the right notes. A pale shade of pink in the glass, the wine begins with soft aromas of melon, Meyer lemon zest and sea shell. The palate shows tart lemon acidity, a chalky texture and rounded cantaloupe flavors, enhanced by tangerine peel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

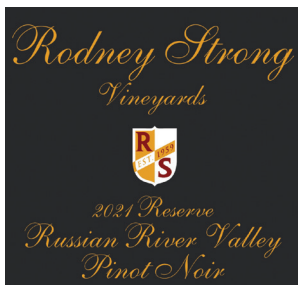


**92 Quinta Vale D. Maria 2020 Vinha de Martim (Douro).** With some wood aging for nine months, this balances fruit and a spicy character. The wine comes from the grapes of 60-year-old vines that give richness and acidity in equal measure. Drink now. Aveleda Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$105

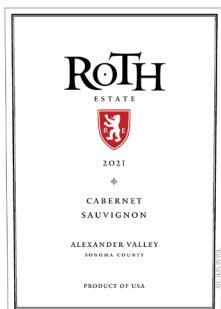


**92 Rodney Strong 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A mélange of butter, cream, lemon and fresh apple notes fill the aroma of this full-bodied but lively wine before tangy Pippin apples, lemon zest and great acidity enliven the palate. Medium bodied, the wine is well balanced for pairing with shellfish, sauteed halibut and dozens of other dishes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

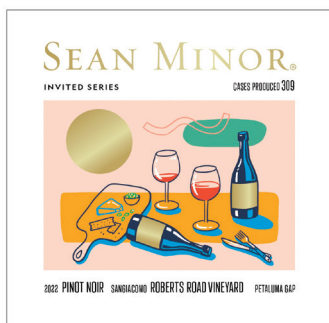




**92 Rodney Strong 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This ripe and generous wine smells like a cherry pie and tastes like warm raspberries and cherries dusted with cinnamon and ground cloves. It's a welcoming, almost-sweet Pinot that is comfy in texture and alluring in flavor. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60



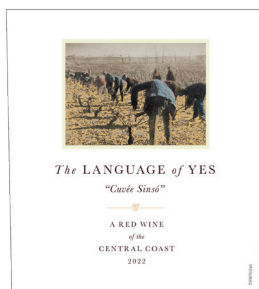
**92 Roth 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Opening with black currants, iron and mint in the nose, this full-bodied but sleek wine offers a generous array of raspberries, cherries and dark plums, while soothing the palate with fine-grained tannins. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30/375 ml



**92 Sean Minor 2022 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** A light garnet color and equally ethereal aromas of sour cherries, bay and redwood bark lead to tangy red cherries, cranberries and mushrooms on the palate. This medium-bodied wine is interesting, complex and delicate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75



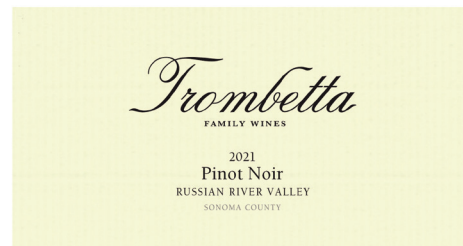
**92 Sirin 2021 Quarryhill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Coast).** Cedar, mint and dill aromas catch your attention before bold, vibrant black cherries, black currants and dark chocolate coat the palate. This nicely structured, moderately tannic wine shows generous ripeness and breadth the more you sip, and its subtle spices linger on the finish. Best 2025–2033. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55



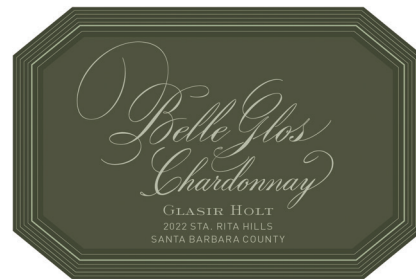
**92 The Language of Yes 2022 Cuvée Sinsó Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast).** Fresh and zippy aromas of black raspberry and scarlet rose are enhanced by wet earth, sumac and cinnamon on the nose of this Cinsaut-based blend, which also includes 26% Syrah, 6% Grenache, 3% Tannat and 1% Viognier. Thyme and fennel-frond flavors lead the herbaceous palate before bright raspberry, lemon peel and warm toast elements arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$35



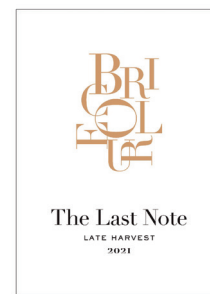
**92 Trombetta 2021 Indindoli Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Almost-sweet fruity, floral flavors give this broad-textured wine an easy, agreeable entry before medium tannins grab the palate and good acidity lifts and energizes. Rose petals, dried cherries and light baking spices give plenty to savor. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$58



**92 Trombetta 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Quite ripe in flavor and full in body, this well-saturated wine offers dried cherries and dried blueberries on a powerful structure of bracing tannins. The wine is big and bold, but well balanced for its size and should improve with a little time. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$50



**91 Belle Glos 2022 Glasir Holt Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Very plush aromas of peach jam and ripe nectarine meet with warm touches of brioche in this bottling from a vineyard toward the appellation's western edge. Those big peach flavors are cut by a citrusy acidity leading into a marshmallow-like finish, thanks to the ample new French oak usage. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55



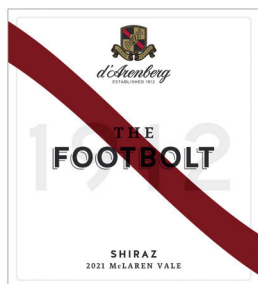
**91 Bricoleur 2021 The Last Note Late Harvest Viognier-Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** Sweet and drenched in pear-nectar flavors, this dessert-style wine feels rich and creamy, tastes intensely fruity and shows a pillowy viscosity that is fortunately balanced by some vibrant fruit acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$45/375 ml



**91 CRU 2020 Rancho Real Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** Boysenberry, violet and lavender aromas meet with warm pastry and cracked pepper on the cohesive nose of this bottling. The palate picks up a fruity boysenberry-juice flavor before gingerbread, pepper and purple-flower elements add depth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$50



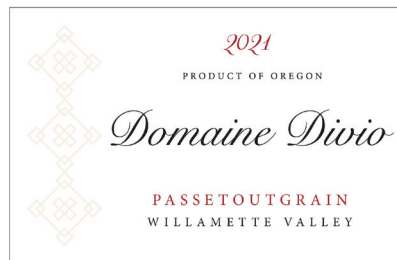
**91 CRU 2021 Sarmiento Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Warm and nutty aromas of peanut brittle, butterscotch, peach preserves and gardenia make for a very generous nose on this bottling. The palate combines flavors of popcorn, pineapple and guava into an expansive expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35



**91 D'Arenberg 2021 The Footbolt Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Savory notes of sage and bay leaf are as forward on the nose as the plum and cherry notes. There's a lick of vanillin oak showing, too. The abundance of tangy fruit continues its journey in the mouth, lingering on the finish amidst a powerful, well-placed frame of tannins. Drink now–2031. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21



**91 De Bortoli 2019 Noble One Semillon (Riverina).** A deep amber hue, this displays complex, intense aromas of grilled nectarine, campfire smoke and buttered, roasted cashews. As expected from the nose, the palate is hugely concentrated, rich and viscous, freshened by just enough acidity. Sip by the thimbleful well chilled with salty, bitter desserts. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$42



**91 Domaine Divio 2021 Passetoutgrain Gamay Noir-Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is a perfectly rustic passetoutgrain featuring aromas and flavors of boysenberries, tart cherries, tangerine zest and a touch of earth and cacao nibs. Excellent acidity waters the mouth, as sturdy tannins offer support. Bring on the cassoulet. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$32



**91 Domaine St. Laurent 2021 Block One Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** A distinctive aromatic combination of blackberries and barbecue pork ribs is flanked by traces of fresh pine needles and citrus. The wine's bright red cherry flavor melds with notes of caramel and a warm croissant. This medium-bodied wine shows zestful acidity and firm tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$35



**91 El Enemigo 2020 Bonarda (Mendoza).** Wine-maker Alejandro Vigil added a dash of Cabernet Franc to this 85% Bonarda. The result is a full-bodied red that offers concentrated notes of berry jam and licorice on the nose and palate. The wine's fruit-forward character includes red berries mixed with subtle notes of thyme alongside good acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

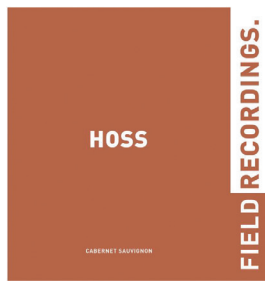


**91 Falkner 2021 Meritage (Temecula Valley).** Dark berry, wood spice and licorice make for a cohesive nose on this blend of 42% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Merlot and 18% Cabernet Franc. The palate delivers a down-the-middle experience, offering cherry and Christmas-spice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$80



**91 Ferrari-Carano 2021 Merlot (Sonoma County).** Aromas of red cherries, black currants and cinnamon offer plenty to like in this velvety wine, while cocoa and vanilla join in on the palate, framed by moderate tannins. The wine is full in body, rich in oak and fruit flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$30

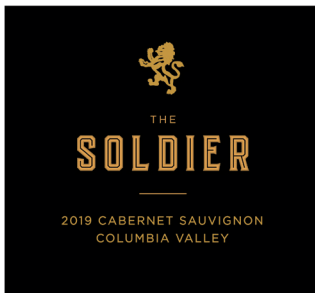




**91 Field Recordings 2022 Hoss Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This is a lighter style of affordable Cab, offering aromas of snappy red fruits and dried herbs on the nose. The palate combines strawberry, raspberry and pomegranate flavors with red flowers, toasted herbs, fennel pollen and a lightly nutty spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$29



**91 Flying H 2021 Rancho Legado Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey County).** Grassy and sour lime aromas meet with a seashore funk on the aggressive nose of this bottling. The palate grips with a pithy tension, offering lime-peel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32



**91 King Estate 2019 The Soldier Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This is a lot of wine for such a modest price. The wine's blueberry and graphite aromas are soon joined by bursts of hyacinth and burnt sugar. Elevated acidity and silky tannins support The Soldier's blueberry pie and crushed hazelnut flavors. The wine's smooth and creamy mouthfeel is a bonus. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23



**91 King Estate 2022 Domaine Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** The Domaine's classic pear and melon aromas are accented by interesting mint and tahini notes. A crisp texture and dazzling acidity help to frame flavors like lemon, lime, almond and a touch of avocado oil. This is quite the savory treat. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29



**91 La Purísima 2021 Casa Senda del Molino Organic Garnacha/Syrah/Monastrell (Yecla).** This deep crimson wine has aromas of black cherry, mocha, clove and nutmeg. Clove and nutmeg carry over to the taste buds alongside mint, star anise, Mission fig, purple plum and cocoa powder flavors. Muscular tannins slowly peel away to reveal a smooth and spicy finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28



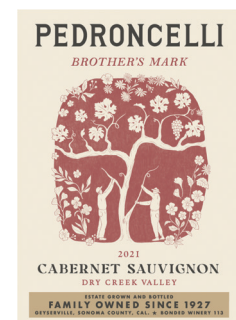
**91 Luigi Bosca 2022 De Sangre White Blend (Mendoza).** A blend of 50% Chardonnay and the rest of Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc, this is well structured and has a creamy texture. The nose is subtle, but the palate offers generous notes of lemon and pear. A dash of celery shows in the delicious crisp finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$29



**91 MacRostie 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Warm, ripe and juicy, this easy-sipping, appealing wine offers sunny fruit flavors of red cherries, black cherries and red plums on a texture of light tannins and robust alcohol. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38



**91 Octopoda 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Rich in fruit aromas, lush in texture and well packed with ripe cherries and berries, this full-bodied wine keeps pouring out dark plum flavors on the palate and finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30



**91 Pedroncelli 2021 Brother's Mark Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).** Powerful black fruits and charred-oak flavors drive this full-bodied and appropriately tannic wine as it pours out blackberries, cedar and toasted walnuts. It has the heft and concentrated fruit to pair with everything from ribs to risotto and Bolognese pasta. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$24



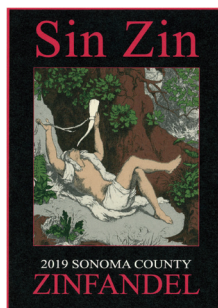
**91 Ottella 2022 Le Creete (Lugana).** Heady on the nose with citrus, tropical fruit and jasmine aromas. This Lugana dances on the palate with electric lemon, grapefruit and apricot notes finishing with crisp acidity. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



**91 Umani Ronchi 2019 Centovie (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose starts off with candy aromas of cherry cola and red licorice, then turns sharply onto an umami road lined with houses of balsamic, grilled meat and herbs. On the palate, a fresh earthiness underscores both the sweet cherry element and an enduring meatiness. Tannins provide an anchor for bouncy acid. Vineyard Brands. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48



**91 Wente 2021 Riva Ranch Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling begins with herbal aromas of incense and bay leaf that enliven the black raspberry core of the nose. Juicy strawberry flavors are lifted by clove, incense and oak on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35



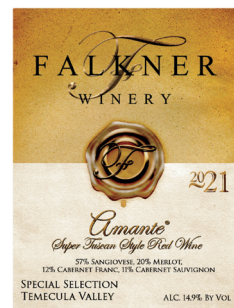
**90 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2019 Sin Zin Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** Strawberries, blackberries and vanilla rise from the glass before ripe and fresh berries, cream and milk chocolate spread across the palate. Aged in American oak barrels, this wine is full bodied but not very tannic, easy to sip and enjoy. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$24



**90 Domaine St. Laurent 2022 Block One Rosé de Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** This fresh aromatic set of peach, saline, spearmint and wet slate is quite invigorating. The palate features really tangy, almost sour, tangerine and Meyer lemon favors to go along with faint whispers of strawberries and hazelnuts. High in acidity, light in body. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$28



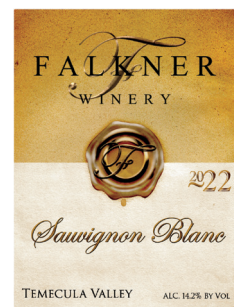
**90 Domaine Thet 2021 Sec (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** While it is described as dry, this wine is also honeyed with acidity to keep it fresh and soft. It's an attractively ripe wine, balancing crispness with a smoother texture. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36



**90 Falkner 2021 Amante Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** Black-raspberry aromas meet with an undertone of earth on the nose of this blend of 57% Sangiovese, 20% Merlot, 12% Cabernet Franc and 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is toasty with pastry flavors that wrap around the baked strawberry core, which approaches sweetness. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$80



**90 Falkner 2022 Rosé (Central Coast).** Light bubblegum aromas are cut by tangerine peel and crushed rocks on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm grip to the palate, where cherry and orange-peel flavors meet with a rusty minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$45



**90 Falkner 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** Brisk pear flesh, lime peel and wet-stone aromas make for an engagingly fresh and mineral nose on this bottling, a strong showing for a Temecula white. There's a snap of lime peel and more rounded green-apple flavors on the palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

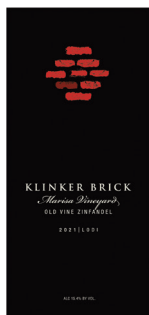




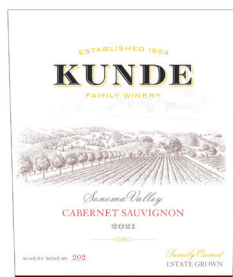
**90** Indigené 2019 Yeux De Chat Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Santa Lucia Highlands). Lively floral aromas meet with tart apple, wet cement and light dough accents on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit more ripe and slightly sweet, with pineapple flavors riding atop a creamy mousse. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$64



**90** Klinker Brick 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This well-balanced Zin shows great integration between fresh fruit, oak influence and age. Enjoy notes of black cherry, black plum, bramble, forest floor, black pepper, charred wood, gravel and graphite carried by a palate filled with chalky tannins, modest acidity and generous alcohol. Drink now. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$22



**90** Klinker Brick 2021 Marisa Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi). This full-bodied red gives a lot without being overly complex or snobby about it. Enjoy notes of red and black plum, cherry and currant, charred wood, leaf litter, tar, cacao and sweet tobacco. Drink now. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28



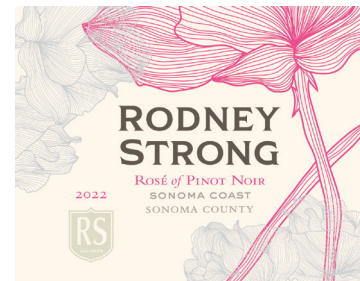
**90** Kunde 2021 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley). Concentrated but fresh tasting, this medium-bodied wine offers fresh-crushed blackberries with a dash of oak char and cloves supported by moderate tannins. It's exuberant and flavorful, best to drink through 2027. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38



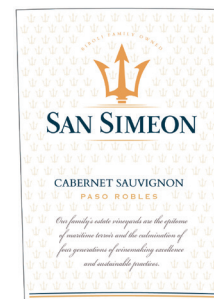
**90** Le Garenne 2020 (Chinon). Chinon is terroir-expressive and this wine delivers the distinctive terroir-expressiveness of the region. This wine has a perfumed nose of pencil shavings, red plum, dried red cherry and forest floor. The palate echoes the nose with well-integrated fruit and tannin. Asgram LLC. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



**90** Middleridge 2022 Pinot Noir (Palos Verdes Peninsula). One of the few commercial bottlings produced from the new Palos Verdes appellation, this Pinot Noir by the Beshke family offers juicy strawberry and dark earth aromas on the nose. There's an oak character to the palate that warms up the tart pomegranate flavors. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



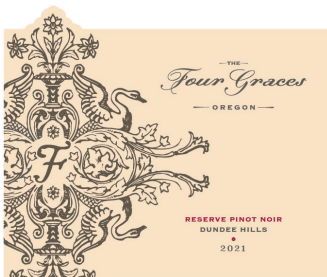
**90** Rodney Strong 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast). A vivid pink-copper color and exuberant fruit aromas give way to nicely tangy raspberry and red-cherry flavors as this light-bodied wine activates the taste buds for the next bite of grilled shrimp or California roll. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30



**90** San Simeon 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles). This widely available wine is a wise choice for all levels of Cab fans. Dense aromas of fudge, tobacco and cigar box lead into an unctuous palate of black fruit, milk chocolate and baking spice. It's potent and thick. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35



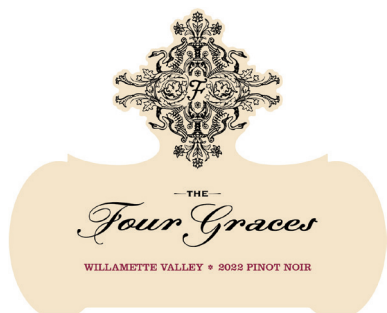
**90** Seiterre 2020 Gigi Rizzi No. 1 Collection (Lugana Superiore). Out of the gate, you are greeted with a combination of heady aromas of ripe nectarine, baked apple and new oak with hints of sweet spices and vanilla. As the wine opens, there are notes of honeysuckle and wet stone. The full-bodied palate is braced by vibrant acidity, while flavors of apricot, bitter orange, sage and oak spices mingle on the extended finish. *Vino d'Italia.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25



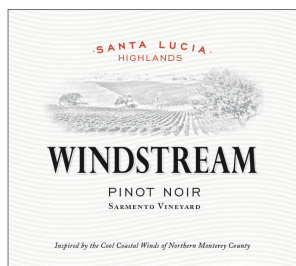
**90 The Four Graces 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The reserve's bright acidity and silky tannins feel like an even match, with black cherry and bittersweet chocolate flavors dominating the crisp palate. There's also a savory touch of smoked brisket in the background. The aromas are a nice perfume of cherries and earth. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40



**90 The Four Graces 2022 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** This light-bodied wine is as fresh as a daisy, with aromas of lime zest, wet slate and a Bosc pear. Mild grapefruit and lime flavors are complemented by bracing acidity and a chalkiness similar to drinking water from a cool cistern or a mountain stream. This wine is a sip-and-chill special. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$23



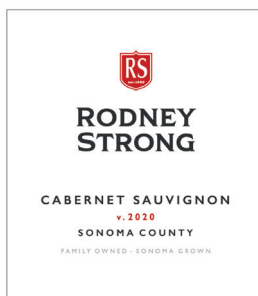
**90 The Four Graces 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Tasted early in its life, this Pinot Noir shows a lot of potential. Sweet hyacinth and ripe raspberry aromas gently mix with notes of cedar and dried blueberries. Cranberry and raspberry flavors offer a tart counterpoint, backed by clove, cinnamon, elevated acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35



**90 Windstream 2022 Sarmiento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Black cherry, cola, light mint and scorched-earth aromas make for a hearty nose on this bottling. The palate's baked cherry core is surrounded by toasty oak and vanilla flavors, with clove popping on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40



**89 McKinley Springs 2022 Chenin Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills).** This Chenin Blanc is a study in contrasts. The wine's lemon icing aroma suggests sweetness as opposed to its tart, earthy notes of basil and chamomile. Then an almost sour green apple flavor bumps up against notes of cinnamon spice and toffee-coated almonds. It all kind of works. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$26



**89 Rodney Strong 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This full-bodied, firmly tannic wine can be decanted and paired immediately with a grilled ribeye, or saved for future enjoyment when it should have gained more complexity. Hearty blackberry and black-cherry flavors are accented with wood char and black pepper. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25



**89 Sirin 2021 TNT Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).** Fruit forward and lively in texture, this wine shows little of the buttery richness typical of many versions and more of the pure apple, peach and melon qualities of Chardonnay. It is clean and fresh tasting, well balanced to serve before or during a meal. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$48

## BEST BUYS



**92 Carneros Highway 2022 Nueva Chardonnay (Carneros).** Subtle toasty, flinty, milky aromas lift out of the glass, giving a white Burgundy vibe, before luscious, concentrated poached pears, hazelnuts, cream and butter flavors flood the palate with richness. A lingering finish underscores the wine's depth. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



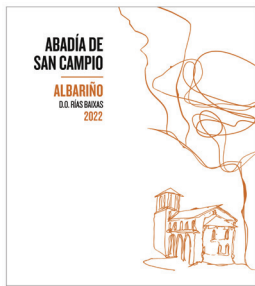
**92 Girasole 2022 Pinot Blanc (Mendocino).** The beauty and enjoyment of this wine is in its sheer simplicity. Notes of peach, nectarine, acacia blossom, nasturtium leaf and nectar, bread dough, honeysuckle, blood-orange zest and just-ripe mango are carried by a medium body and smooth, glycerin texture. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16



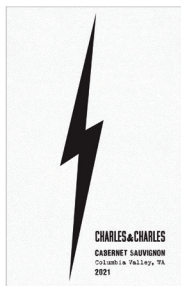
## BEST BUYS



**92 Greg Norman Estates 2021 Shiraz (Limestone Coast).** A soft layer of mint, bay leaf and white pepper adds character to the primary berry aromas on this Limestone Shiraz from a particularly perfumed vintage. It's medium to full bodied with silky texture, succulent fruit freshness, well-placed tannins and that same herb-and-spice combo that lends an element of food friendliness. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

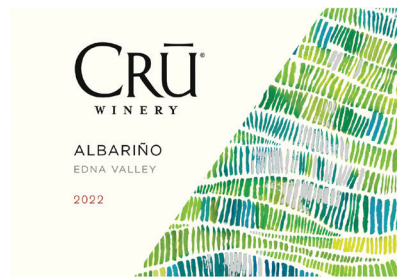


**92 Terras Gauda 2022 Abadía de San Campio Albariño (Rías Baixas).** This light straw-colored wine has a nose of nectarine and orange blossom. It is bright from the first sip, with lemon-lime, grapefruit and passion fruit flavors. A savory note of dried Mediterranean herbs infuses the vivid finish. Trincher Family Estates. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20



**91 Charles & Charles 2021 Bolt Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The quality of this wine is hard to fathom at this price point. It has grippy tannins, vibrant acidity, a leathery texture and all the fruit you can handle. Aromas of baked apples, black cherry and loamy soil lead to blackberry, blueberry, basil and orange zest flavors. Try it with steak and a Jim Jarmusch flick. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$15

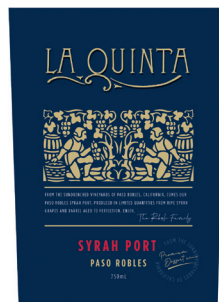
## BEST BUYS



**91 CRU 2022 Albariño (Edna Valley).** Nectarine, gardenia and light-stone aromas show on the clean and crisp nose of this bottling. The palate combines chalk and citrus zest to balance the rounded apricot and honey flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**91 Jules Taylor 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Leaning on the green veg side of the fence, this is a bombastic-yet-harmonious combo of freshly sliced green bell pepper, string bean, sea-shell, lime granita and passion fruit aromas. There's lively acidity and some lovely texture to boot. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**91 La Quinta NV Port Syrah (Paso Robles).** This bottling deserves special recognition for its bilingual label and it also happens to be a solid Port-style dessert wine. Alluring aromas of roasted figs and smoked sugar plums decorate the nose, while the palate is pleasantly sweet with spicy flavors of cola, mace, more fig and light herbs, served atop a glycerine mouthfeel. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 18.5% **Price:** \$18

## BEST BUYS



**91 Nielson 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** The nose on this bottling is pleasantly rich with whipped cream, apple blossom and pineapple aromas. The palate picks up a tense lemon-peel edge to counteract the baked apple, macadamia nut and toasted pastry flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$16



**91 Nielson 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Rounded aromas of roasted red cherry and peppery herbs invite the nose into this bottling. The palate is tense and complex, combining cracked pepper, toasted herb and pomegranate flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$19



**91 Octopoda 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Fresh and fruity aromas of black raspberry, red flowers and star anise are juicy and fun on the nose of this bottling. There is ample tension to the palate, where the snappy red-fruit flavors are lifted by sage brush and fennel pollen. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

## BEST BUYS



**91** Sea Bird 2019 Santé Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Carneros). With a bright copper color and striking red-fruit flavors, this dry and well-balanced wine will make a showy entrance to your next soiree, be it poolside or fireside. With tangy acidity and tasty, light raspberry and red-plum flavors, the wine will pair with lots of lunch and dinner dishes, too. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

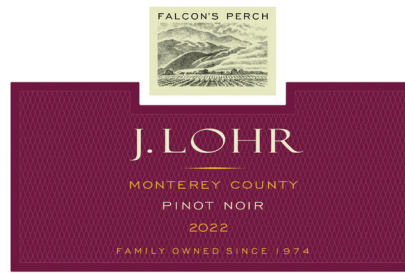


**91** Tenuta Rovaglia 2022 Limne (Lugana). Invigorating citrus aromas pop out of the glass, quickly followed by mixed stone fruit and white floral hints. Tart on the palate, with lemon and grapefruit flavors take center stage, accompanied by a refreshing acidity, a harmonious finish and a great texture on the long-lived palate. John Given Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



**90** Fiuzza 2022 Eminente Reserva (Tejo). Spicy and lightly smoky, this is a smooth, polished wine. With rich tannins supporting the wood-aged black plum fruits, this is also a dense wine. It has the potential to age, so wait to drink until 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## BEST BUYS



**90** J. Lohr 2022 Falcon's Perch Pinot Noir (Monterey County). A lighter hue in the glass, this is a very reliable Pinot Noir for everyday enjoyment. Aromas of candied cherry, forest floor and toasted wood lead from the nose into a palate of pomegranate jam and fennel pollen, with a kick of pepper on the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$17



**90** King Estate 2022 Inscription Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley). What an aromatic roller-coaster ride. The first sniff of the glass yields bright red cherries and orange zest. Then you get a burst of roasted red peppers, followed by a shot of espresso. Restrained acidity and velvety tannins accompany raspberry, smoked cherry and earthy oregano flavors. Great value here. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20



**90** Piattelli 2023 High Altitude Torrontés (Cafayate). This is a nicely crafted and lively Torrontés with great varietal expression. The nose displays aromas of jasmine, dill, citrus and stone fruit. It has flavors of herbs and honeysuckle energized by refreshing acidity. Vinocopia. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$16

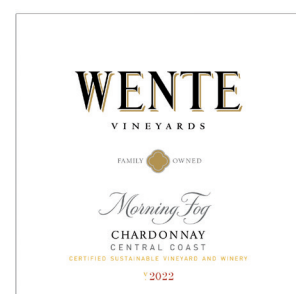
## BEST BUYS



**90** Pietrame 2021 Edizione Limitata (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo). The meaty, sanguine nose asserts aromas of tar, old leather and oregano, while undertones of cherries and tart, dark berries provide balance. On the palate, a current of bitter earthiness stands up to swelling fruit, before round, rustic tannins open the door to a hot, roaring, acidic finish. HB Wine Merchants. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11



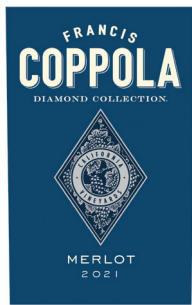
**90** River Road 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma County). Full bodied and mouth filling, this bold wine doesn't scrimp on the butter, vanilla and coconut flavors from oak aging, while backing them with poached pears and baked apples. A touch of tangy acidity keeps it nicely balanced. **Best Buy.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



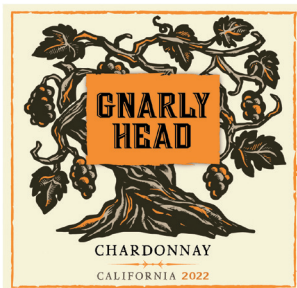
**90** Wente 2022 Morning Fog Chardonnay (Central Coast). Lively aromas of jasmine and pineapple are tropical, yet show restraint on the nose of this bottling. Those tropical elements add flavors of coconut and plumeria on the palate, as the vibrant acidity causes the wine to dance across the tongue. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18



## BEST BUYS



**89 Francis Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Merlot (California).** This is a great bang-for-the-buck Merlot with a generously full body incorporating ripe notes of black cherry and plum, fennel, anise, cacao, toasted wood, sweet tobacco and fresh cedar. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16



**89 Gnarly Head 2022 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Rounded aromas of apple, pear and popcorn converge on the nose of this reliable Chardonnay. Riper apple and melon flavors are cut by a zesty Meyer lemon note on the palate, with almond popping on the finish. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12



**89 The Better Half 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Bell peppers and jalapeños lead on this highly aromatic Sauvignon Blanc, followed by fruitier ones like lime, pineapple and peach. Tingly acidity and a slightly chalky texture add interest and refreshment to the oodles of fruit on the palate. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## BEST BUYS



**88 Member's Mark 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Loamy earth and dark cherry aromas kick off the nose on this bottling. Dried cherry and allspice flavors converge on the well-textured palate. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10



**88 Outlander 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Roasted-cherry aromas are layered in earthy herbs and warm wood elements on the nose of this bottling. The palate's ripe cherry and strawberry flavors are complemented by pie crust and toasted-wood tones. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10



**88 Outlander 2021 Meritage (Paso Robles).** Wild aromas of tart plum, thyme and leather show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with herbs, from marjoram to oregano to thyme, with cranberry taking the fruit lead. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8

## BEST BUYS



**87 Noble Vines 2021 181 Merlot (Lodi).** An overall balanced, quaffable Merlot, this expression out of Lodi offers notes of blackberry, black cherry, bramble, dusty forest floor, fresh and dried violets, licorice and leather. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

## NORTHEAST ITALY WHITE WINES

**89 Tenuta Villanova 2021 (Collio).** This Sauvignon exudes the Collio from the moment you pour the first glass. Elegant aromas of jasmine flower mixed with lime zest and fresh bay leaf waft from the glass. The palate has weight, highlighting the ripe citrus notes, but is balanced out by its fresh acidity. The wine finishes with subtle minerality and a pleasant bitter pithy note. **Vino Direct.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88 Due del Monte 2019 (Collio).** Rich and lush on the nose with aromas of baked apples covered in roasted honey and hazelnuts. The palate is well integrated with notes of baking spice and vanilla from the oak aging. This gives the wine a soft and plush texture that is balanced out by a bright pop of acidity on the finish. **Free Run LLC.** **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$9

**88 Sant' Elena 2020 Chardonnay (Friuli Aquileia).** Baked-apple aromas mixed with lemon peel and crushed stone define the nose of this fresh and easy Chardonnay from Friuli. Medium in body, the palate has more green apple and baked citrus notes that give way to a fresh and vibrant finish. **Vinifera Imports.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87 Ca' Bolani 2022 Pinot Grigio (Friuli).** Aromas of Fuji apple, orange zest and fresh white flowers emerge from the glass. The bright and lively palate showcases mixed citrus, light honey notes, and peach pit-flavors, finishing with a slightly savory character. **1821 Fine Wines & Spirits.** **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$16

**86 Cielo e Terra 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** This wine opens with aromas of Asian

# BUYINGGUIDE

pear, orange peel and jasmine, with subtle hints of rain on gravel. Freshly pressed apple flavors unfold on the palate, followed by notes of dried lemon and peach pit, leading to a soft finish. USA Wine West. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**86 Mezzacorona 2022 Pinot Grigio (Delle Venezie).** Soft aromas of white peach, melon, lemon peel and white flowers. The easy palate gives creamy pear flavors, giving way to a stony minerality on the finish. Prestige Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Marchesi 2022 Villa Marchesi Pinot Grigio (Friuli).** The steely wine reveals crushed stone minerality, lemon rind and green-apple skin on the nose. The palate is tart and crunchy, mirroring the aromas and finishes with a note of blanched almond. Siegal Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$11

**84 Cavit 2022 Moscato (Trevenezie).** This fresh wine opens with aromas of yellow peach, candied orange and a hint of herb. The palate is light and lively, with notes of candied apricot finishing with a lift on the finish. Palm Bay International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$12

## NORTHEAST ITALY RED WINES

### FRIULI

**89 Sant' Elena 2016 Ròs di Ròl Merlot (Friuli).** This Merlot opens with aromas of plum and cherry preserves, cedar, tobacco and star anise. The supple palate starts with plum notes that quickly shift to more savory elements with hints of dried flowers finishing with fine and well-balanced tannins. Drink Now Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**87 Obiz 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Friuli).** With blackberry and cassis, this wine hits all the notes of a classic drinkable Cabernet Sauvignon. As the wine develops in the glass, dried herbs, sweet tobacco and cedar aromas waft out. Medium in body on the palate, with a solid core of red and black fruits that drive towards the savory finish. McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Obiz 2021 Cabernet Franc (Friuli).** Tobacco, bell pepper and spiced black-plum aromas open the nose of this easy Cabernet Franc. The plump palate is generous with blackberry notes, balanced by savory herbal notes and finishing with super-fine tannins. McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

### FRIULI ISONZO

**88 I Feudi di Romans 2021 Pinot Nero (Friuli Isonzo).** Medicinal herbs stems and sour cherry aromas dominate, accompanied by notes of underbrush. Light bodied, the wine presents mixed red berries that transition to more tea leaf and earthy tones. Brand Italia. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Tenuta Luisa 2019 Refosco dal Peduncolo Rosso (Isonzo del Friuli).** This spicy wine pops with aromas of mixed peppercorn, macerated cherries and tobacco on the nose. A broad mix of herbs and concentrated black fruits drive the palate, while notes of white pepper and tobacco provide contrast, finishing with firm tannins. Drink 2025–2035 Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Sant' Elena 2016 Cabernet Franc (Friuli Isonzo).** This wine is a classic mix of savory herbs, plump black fruits and tobacco. Medium in bodied, with more tart red fruits on the palate finishing with fine-grained tannins. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**85 Sant' Elena 2016 Merlot (Friuli Isonzo).** This Merlot opens with aromas of dried cherry, dried violets, cedar and tobacco. The soft palate shows notes of preserved plums, clove and underbrush. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**85 Tenuta di Angoris 2022 Villa Locatelli Cabernet Franc (Isonzo del Friuli).** Ruby red in color with aromas of plum, tobacco, cedar and savory spice. The soft palate is easy with an ample amount of dark-berry notes finishing with fine tannins. Ventura Selections LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

### OTHER RED WINES

**93 Niedrist 2018 Südtiroler Blauburgunder Riserva (Alto Adige).** Mixed wild berries, botanical-like amaro notes, and underbrush define the aromatic profile of this earth-driven Pinot Noir. Sweet red fruits and bitter orange flavors fill the glass, finishing with dried earth and tannins. Drink Now–2035 Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Russiz Superiore 2018 Cabernet Franc (Collio).** Opening with aromas of red cherries and spiced plums, this 100% Cabernet Franc delivers. As the wine opens, herbal notes mixed with pepper and dried flowers lift out of the glass. Elegantly structured with fine, yet present tannins, the palate shows the youthful side of mixed berry fruits, while the more savory and earthy elements shy away from the spotlight until their time comes.

Drink Now–2035 Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$31

**91 Loredan Gasparini 2019 Della Casa (Venegazzo).** Classic bold aromas of dark plums, macerated cherries laced with star anise and clove lift from the glass of this Bordeaux Blend, with Italian style. Well structured with fine tannins, the sublime palate balances between concentrated fruits and savory earthiness. Drink Now Vinity Wine Company. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Colli Di Poianis 2018 Gli Stormi (Colli Orientali del Friuli).** A grape to check out, this Schioppettino is a classic with aromas of blackberry, blackberry, cedar and tobacco notes. Fine herbs, turned earth and plum define the palate, as elegant tannins provide the frame for the wine to stand on. Drink Now Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**90 Venchiarezza 2021 Dal Peduncolo Refosco (Venezia Giulia).** Refosco Peduncolo is a native grape to the Friuli region and worth your time! Aromas of mixed red and black berries, wild herbs, violets and white pepper roll out the glass. Powerful and pointed, the palate hits with a boom of dark plum and black cherry with savory spice, licorice and rosemary in support, as the firm tannins grip the palate waiting for that next bite of food to balance the palate. Drink Now–2033 Sunrise Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**87 Bottega Vinaia 2021 Estate Bottled Pinot Noir (Trentino).** Ripe cherry aromas harmonize with sweet spice and underbrush notes on the nose. Fine tannins frame the tart red-fruit flavors, leading to a savory finish with a pop of acidity. Palm Bay International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**87 Tenuta di Angoris 2021 Schioppettino (Friuli Colli Orientali).** Black pepper, plum jam, clove, cinnamon and dried-violet aromas lift from the glass. Ripe red, blue- and black-hued fruits pop on the palate with hints of tobacco and dried herbs followed by youthful tannins. Drink 2025–2035 Ventura Selections LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**86 Obiz 2018 Natissa (Venezia Giulia).** This medium-bodied red made from Merlot and Refosco opens with plump plum aromas spiced with white pepper and roasted herbs. The warm and rounded palate is generous with dark-hued fruits, both fresh and preserved, with floral notes leading to fine and dusty tannins. McCormick Wine Imports, LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**84 Cavit 2021 Merlot (Trentino).** This fruit-forward Merlot opens with aromas of mixed dark-hued fruits, baking spices and turned earth. Soft and easy on the palate, with a core of deep plum



notes and followed by hints of clove, cinnamon and vanilla. Palm Bay International. —J.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$12

## VENETO WHITE WINES

**93 Anselmi 2022 Capitel Foscario (Veneto).** An icon of wine, this blend of 90% Garganega and 10% Chardonnay showcases the beauty of this slice of the Veneto. Aromas of ripe stone fruits, lemon oil, jasmine and sweet spice lead you into the glass. Rounded, but with an electric core, the palate shows tart apricot, dried yellow flowers, roasted nuts and a distinct and complex mineral structure that captivates the senses. Drink Now–2035 Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**93 Pasqua NV Hey French You Could Have Made This But You Didn't (Veneto).** Hey French is one of the most unique Italian wines on the market today. A blend of Garganega, Pinot Bianco and Sauvignon Blanc plus a multi-vintage blend and macerated. Altogether this gives the wine a complexity and depth that make this a singular wine. Aromas of roasted Rennet apple, dried orange and lemon peel, pressed yellow flowers and beeswax. The palate is both rich yet lifted simultaneously with vibrant acidity and a smoky mineral quality that melds with roasted stone fruit, almond and citrus oil on the palate. Drink Now–2035. Pasqua USA LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

**92 Anselmi 2022 San Vincenzo (Veneto).** 70% Garganega (the grape native to this region) plus a blend of 30% Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc creates a heady and enticing nose that is loaded with mixed citrus notes, nectarine, wild herbs and a flinty minerality. The palate plays both to richness with ripe stone fruits at the core, but with vibrant acidity hemming it in, while roasted almonds and dried flowers offer a counterweight to the fruit on the finish. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
abv: 12% Price: \$15

**91 Anselmi 2022 Capitel Croce (Veneto).** This wine lays its soul in the glass with aromas that come and go, but never leave you. Notes of dried Mandarin orange, apricot, jasmine, tarragon and savory spice. Not to be outdone, the palate is lifted and vibrant with fresh acidity and notes of lemon oil, balanced almond and flint. Palm Bay International. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
abv: 13% Price: \$22

**88 Marchesi Fumanelli 2017 Terso (Veneto).** An equal blend of Garganega and Trebbiano, this wine opens with aromas of roasted lemon, baked apples and toasted oak with warmed baking spices. The lush and rich palate has roasted hazel-

nut, honey and mixed citrus notes that are all lifted by vibrant acidity. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

**86 La Costa 2020 Vespaiole (Veneto).** This light and refreshing white wine opens with crunchy green apple and lemon zest notes that give way to pressed white flowers. The crisp palate pops with mixed orchard fruits, and roasted citrus peel with sea salt on the finish. Wine For The World. —J.P.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$24

## PROSECCO

**92 Fidora NV Tenuta Cirvanetta Frizzante Il Fondo (Prosecco).** This estate has been farming organically since 1974—a rare gem of conscientious farming. Beautiful aromas of freshly picked apples, candied lemon, honeysuckle and pink ginger lift from the glass. The light and refreshing palate is crisp with green-apple notes, lees notes and a wet-gravel mineral edge. A very tasty Prosecco. Baron Francois Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$22

**91 Bisol 2022 Relio Rive di Guia Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This single-vineyard Prosecco shows the class and importance of quality Prosecco. The wine opens with aromas of apricot, Mandarin orange and mixed citrus blossom with a steely mineral note. The bright and refreshing palate pops with crisp orchard fruits that all focus on the vibrant and dry finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$44

**90 Bisol 2022 Molera Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Always a lively and energetic Prosecco, the Bisol Molera pops from the glass with a mixture of ripe orchard fruits, apricots and fresh white flowers. The fruit-forward palate is balanced with bright and fresh acidity that gives way to a soft and gentle mousse. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$28

**89 Adami NV Dei Casel Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Freshly cut pears, candied lemon and white peach aromas fill the glass of this fun and vivacious Prosecco. Ripe Fuji apple defines the core of the palate with subtle yeasty notes that finishes off dry. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$18

**89 Bortolomiol 2022 Bandarossa Extra Dry (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** This Prosecco lifts from the glass with fresh aromas of nectarine, Golden Delicious apple and candied citrus peel. The soft and round palate focuses on ripe and candied stone fruits while finishing off dry, yet well balanced. Wine Warehouse Imports. —J.P.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$21

**89 De Stefani 2022 Rive Di Refrontolo Extra Brut (Valdobbiadene Prosecco Superiore).** Light and fresh, this wine reveals green apples and candied lemon on the palate, maintaining a bright and fresh character. Subtle flavors of jasmine, white tea, and flinty notes enhance the experience. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

**88 La Gioiosa 2022 Et Amorosa Millesimato Rosé (Prosecco).** Fresh and fruit forward with wild strawberries, strawberry tops and hints of purple flowers. Zippy and fresh on the palate, with mixed berries and a soft perlage. Ethica Wines. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$15

**88 Zonin 2022 Prosecco Rosé (Prosecco).** Exuberant and lifted, filled with strawberries and hints of cream on the nose, this Prosecco embodies fun. Bright and fresh on the palate, with more tart cherries and a hint of candied orange finishing with a creamy perlage and zippy acidity. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$15

**87 Bottega NV Il Vino dei Poeti Rosé Brut (Prosecco).** Red currants, raspberry and mixed-citrus aromas open the nose of this lifted and fresh sparkler. Textured and slightly creamy with a core of strawberries that drives the wine to the finish. Palm Bay International. —J.P.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$19

**86 Caposaldo 2022 Millesimato Rosé Brut (Prosecco).** This rosé Prosecco pops out of the glass like a basket of fresh mixed berries, a hint of peach blossom and candied lemon zest. Raspberries and cherries are at the core of the wine, while tart apricots and white flowers are found on the gentle finish. Kobrand. —J.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$NA

**84 Masottina 2022 Collezione 96 Brut Rosé (Prosecco).** Fresh aromas of cherries and strawberries lift out of the glass of this rosé Prosecco. The light palate highlights the red fruits found on the nose, finishing with a soft and easy perlage. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.  
abv: 11% Price: \$15

## OTHER WHITE WINE

**88 Monte del Frà 2022 (Custoza).** Lifted aromas of freshly cut Fuji apples fill the glass of this vibrant wine. Light on the palate, with a bitter almond note followed by lemon peel and a river-stone minerality. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$17

**86 Barollo Winery 2021 Chardonnay (Venezia).** This heady Chardonnay pours out of the glass with aromas of baked apples drizzled with honey and notes of baking spice. The rich and lush

palate leans towards pear tart, with cider spices and a creamy rich finish. Buta. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## VENETO RED WINES

**93 Inama 2021 Più (Veneto).** Inama has been the pioneer of Carmenere in the Colli Berici of the Veneto and to great effect. The Più is a blend of Carmenere with a touch of Merlot and creates a deeply hued wine that opens with aromas of spiced black plum, tobacco, sage, white pepper and sweet spices from the time spent in oak. Velvety and lush, the palate is filled with fresh and preserved blackberries with spice and savory herbs all framed by the fine and supple tannins on the finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Pasqua 2018 Lui (Veneto).** A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Corvina, with 50% of the Cabernet being dried, this wine is rich and unctuous. It opens with aromas of figs with vanilla and sweet spices that then show cassis liqueur and tobacco. The rich and full-bodied palate is dense with preserved plums, dried leaves, espresso and a hint of cocoa, finishing with ripe tannins and a creaminess. Pasqua USA LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Vignaioli Contrà Soarda 2021 Gaggion Marzemino Nero (Veneto).** Rich and concentrated aromas of black cherries, savory spices and forest floor lead the way for this classic Veneto red. Macerated plums, wild blackberries, black tea and dried violets all give this wine so much character that it is hard to put down. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Pasqua 2021 PassioneSentimento (Veneto).** This blend of Corvina, Croatina and Merlot, which are then dried, leaps out of the glass with concentrated aromas of black-plum compote, fig, espresso, black tea and baking spices. The lush palate coats the palate as blackberry jam and tart red cherries pop with hints of pepper, tobacco and turned earth, finishing with a soft and supple ease. Pasqua USA LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Italo Cescon 2022 Il Tralcetto Pinot Noir (Veneto).** Aromas of cranberry, wild herbs, and savory spice lift from the glass. The palate is fresh and bright, featuring sour cherries, fine tannins and moderate acidity. The juicy fruit flavors make it a fun and easy wine to enjoy. Bacco Wine & Spirit, LLC. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 La Costa 2019 Sarco (Veneto).** This fresh and vital wine jumps out of the glass with aromas of fresh raspberries, violets, fresh thyme and rosemary. Refreshing on the palate, with crunchy

red-berry fruit notes and zippy acidity. A slight chill on it is welcomed. Wine For The World. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Scaia 2020 (Veneto).** This 100% Corvina, a native grape of the Veneto, lifts out of the glass with aromas of sour cherries, fresh roses, hints of tobacco and savory spice. The round palate is inviting with warmed plum notes evolving into lavender and pepper finishing with supple tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**84 Cantine di Ora 2020 Amicale (Veneto).** Plum and cherry aromas mix with dried violets, pepper and dried leaf in this easy wine. Round and plush on the palate, with generous blackberry notes that are balanced by fine tannins and a pop of acidity. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

## AMARONE DELLA VALPOLICELLA

**94 Brigaldara 2017 Case Vecie (Amarone della Valpolicella).** This single-vineyard Amarone is high in the hills of the Valpantena Valley and opens with aromas of macerated black cherries steeped in anise and clove that then evolve into notes of forest floor and dried herbs. Finesse is driven with a balance between wild plums, savory and oolong tea notes that are guided by the elegant tannins and mouth-watering acidity on the end. A classic wine. Drink Now—2045. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$91

**94 Brigaldara 2013 Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Aromas of black plum and spice cake lift from the glass of this rich and heady Amarone. As the wine develops, notes of dark chocolate and espresso follow, giving way to dried thyme and violet notes. Rounded and rich, the tannins give a more structured and linear path, while the sour red and dried black fruits mixed with sweet spices mingle on the palate all leading to an earthy finish. Drink 2025–2050. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$101

**93 Brigaldara 2018 Cavolo (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** The Cavolo Amarone is a selection of top grapes from throughout the estate's vineyards. This wine opens with aromas of raspberry jam, dried cherries dusted with cinnamon and cocoa with wafting notes of cedar and tobacco. Lifted flavors of tart plum and fresh blackberries mingle with bay leaf, chia spice, licorice roots and white pepper. Elegant on the palate, fine tannins and vibrant acidity give this wine a foundation for aging. Drink Now—2040. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$33

**93 Farina 2017 Montefante Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Brooding and dark aromas of macerated plums with bitter choco-

late, dried herbs and a woody earthiness. The full-bodied palate has concentrated black-cherry preserves with a savory bitterness finishing with firm and well-structured tannins. Drink 2024–2045. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$107

**93 Pasqua 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Concentrated aromas of spiced-plum preserves with vanilla, violet and chai spices. Lush and giving on the palate. Liqueured cherries, cigar box, cocoa and oak spice, and fine and present tannins give the wine a strong foundation for aging, while the vibrant acidity keeps the wine fresh and lifted. Drink 2025–2040. Pasqua USA LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**92 Corte Adami 2015 Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Black plums and dried-cherry aromas surrounded by cedar, clove and vanilla spice lead the way on the nose. Concentrated and rich on the palate, offering poached prunes, cocoa, coffee bean and star anise, and finishing with tight-grained tannins. Spirited Bluffs. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$110

**92 Latium di Morini 2016 Campo Leòn (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Candied cherry aromas leap out of the glass with hints of dried violets, tea leaves, tobacco and thyme. Round on the palate, with lush dark baked-plum flavors dusted with sweet baking spices, finishing with an earthy and forest-floor note. Drink now—2035. Jan D'Amore Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$54

**92 Pasqua 2015 Mai Dire Mai (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Aromas of black cherry and plum compote, baking spices and dried violets fill the glass. The structured palate has more tart red fruit, both preserved and dried, that gives way to notes of espresso, leather, tea leaf and turned earth. Drink 2025–2040. Pasqua USA LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$120

**92 Tenuta Santa Maria 2016 Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This Amarone shifts between earthy forest notes and preserved plum notes as it develops in the glass, with a violet through line. Notes of cherry preserves with savory herbs, tobacco and pepper form on the palate with fine tannins. Drink now—2035. Indigenous Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$88

**91 Balerin 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Here's an Amarone that hits all the notes. The 2018 Balerin opens with aromas of black cherry, spiced plums, espresso and tobacco. Polished and giving on the palate, the rich dark-fruit notes are balanced by flavors of dark chocolate, allspice, cigar box and forest floor, finishing with velvety tannins. Drink now—2035. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Brigaldara 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Inviting aromas of cherry jam,



exotic spices, dried violets and cocoa powder swirl in the glass of this well-crafted Amarone. Rich and lush, the wine is mouth filling but the tart red-berry and sour-plum flavors balance the wine along with crunchy acidity that leads to a savory and earthy finish. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Buglioni 2019 Il Lussurioso (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This classically styled Amarone opens with aromas of baked plums, star anise, clove, espresso and dried leaves. The lush fruit opens the palate but savory and earth-driven notes give the wine balance and depth as the rich tannins give the wine a push on the finish. Drink now–2040. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$67

**91 Ilatium Morini 2017 Leòn (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Elegant aromas of wild violets, macerated plums in sweet baking spice and savory herbs waft from the glass of this inviting Amarone. Loaded with candied black cherries on the palate, mixed with espresso and bitter chocolate yielding to savory herbs that finish with fine tannins. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Fumanelli 2017 Octavius Riserva (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Heady aromas of macerated black cherries, plum jam and baking spices define the nose of this lush Amarone. Dense and concentrated on the palate with blackberry, coffee and cocoa notes at its core with herbs and dried floral notes giving added nuance. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16.5% **Price:** \$142

**90 Wild Nature 2016 Organic (Amarone della Valpolicella).** Aromas of baked plums dusted with clove and cinnamon lift from the glass. As the wine develops, aromas of dried violets, cocoa powder, leather and tea emerge. The rich and lush palate highlights the rich dark-fruit notes accented by savory dried herbs, roasted coffee and fresh earth on the elegant finish. Skin Contact Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$69

**89 Farina 2020 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Lifted and vibrant on the nose, with plum and cherry notes alongside wild thyme and tobacco. The rounded palate is soft and plush with ample black-hued preserved fruits, and sweet and savory spices finishing with fine and ripe tannins. Drink now–2045. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**89 Farina 2018 (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** Aromas of crushed and macerated cherries dusted with cocoa, espresso and mixed spices waft from the glass. Generous and giving on the palate with lush mixed-black and red-berry flavors that are supported by notes of bitter chocolate, cola nut and black tea. Drink now–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$83

**87 Bottega 2017 (Amarone della Valpolicella).** This Amarone lifts out of the glass with aromas of liquored cherries, Five Spice powder, cinnamon bark and dried leaves. Deep flavors of roasted plums with tobacco, graphite and freshly turned earth on the finish. Palm Bay International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$50

**87 Campagnola 2018 Corte Armano (Amarone della Valpolicella Classico).** This Amarone opens with aromas of spiced plums, tea leaves, roasted espresso and cigar box. The elegant palate has rich black-cherry flavors that, spiked with clove and licorice, give way to a forest-floor note finishing with fine tannins. Marchetti Co.. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$46

## VALPOLICELLA CLASSICO

**92 Monte del Frà 2022 Tenuta Lena di Mezzo (Valpolicella Classico).** Driven by aromas of blueberries and red plum, this wine leaps from the glass. Juicy and plump but with mouth-watering acidity and finishing with floral and savory notes that balance the wine with style. Vision Wine & Spirits. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Buglioni 2021 (l'm) Perfetto (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** This Valpolicella opens with lifted aromas of fresh and macerated cherries, tobacco, licorice and vanilla. The rounded palate is full of black-raspberry jam flavors spiked with wild thyme, violets and sweet baking spices finishing with supple tannins and bright acidity. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Monte del Frà 2020 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore Ripasso).** Ripe and herbal, this wine embodies classic tobacco-leaf aromas and wild-cherry aromas layered with sweet and exotic spices. On the palate, it offers a plush and soft profile with a core of fresh and preserved plums, and wildflowers. It finishes with rounded tannins and a subtle but very interesting earthy and mineral note. Vision Wine & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Nicolis 2021 (Valpolicella Classico).** Aromas of tart cherries, sweet baking spices and green-tea leaves open the nose of this wine. Easy going and fresh, the fruit-forward palate is loaded with mixed red berries, clove, a hint of green peppercorn and bay leaf on the pleasing finish. Ethica Wines. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Rubinelli Vajol 2020 (Valpolicella Classico Superiore).** Bright red fruits combine with sweet spices and fresh herb aromas on this fun and fresh red. Raspberry, allspice and dried leaf flavors are all balanced on this easy-drinking red. Give a little chill and check it out. Village Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## VERONESE

**93 Allegrini 2020 La Grola (Veronese).** For full review see page 10. Maze Row Wine Merchant.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**92 Le Ragose 2019 (Veronese).** This Cabernet Sauvignon brings old-school Bordeaux likenesses with an innate Italian charm. Aromas of cassis, blackberry, graphite, tea leaf and cedar all fill the glass. The palate showcases the dark-hued fruit notes with macerated plums in savory spice leading to more savory elements on the fine and well-structured finish. Drink now–2040. MS Walker. *Hidden Gem.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$33

**85 Cantine di Ora 2019 Amicale Limited Edition (Veronese).** Spiced plum compote with notes of licorice, clove, pepper and dried violets waft from the glass as the rounded palate offers flavors of black-cherry jam, tobacco and a hint of cocoa. Schenk Wines USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Loredan Gasparini 2018 Capo di Stato (Montello e Colli Asolani).** This is a historic wine worth the search if you like drinking history. Made from old clones of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, the wine exudes the dark plummy notes you would expect, with a deep earthy and savory element. Fine, yet firm tannins give the full-bodied wine gravitas as the deep dark fruits yield to cedar, tobacco, clove and worn leather. Drink now–2045. Vinity Wine Company. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

**93 Inama 2019 Brandisismo (Colli Berici).** This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Carmenere opens with deep aromas of blackberry jam, spiced plum compote and star anise. As the wine develops in the glass, notes of violet, tobacco and graphite rise. Stupendously well balanced, with integrated tannins and mouth-watering acidity that frames the generous dark-hued fruits on the palate, as sweet oak spices linger on the finish. Drink now–2035. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**92 Roeno 2022 La Rua Marzemino (Vallagarina).** Macerated plums with savory herbs, game and black pepper spill out of the glass. The juicy and tart palate pops with crunchy wild berries, with pomegranate and loads of pepper. Mouth-watering acidity on the end with violets. Give it a little chill. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Monte del Frà 2022 (Bardolino).** Lifted aromas of sour cherries, crushed roses and

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wild herbs pour from the glass. This exuberant wine fills the palate with juicy tart red berries and a hint of tea, and finishes with mouth-watering acidity. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Serafini & Vidotto 2020 Phigaia After the Red (Montello e Colli Asolani).** A blend of Cabernet Franc, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine is a great example of how the northeast of Italy has made the Bordeaux varieties its own. Aromas of plum, black cherry and cassis waft from the glass with subtle hints of violet, tobacco and savory spices. Soft and round on the palate, with mixed dark-fruit preserves balanced by notes of espresso, leather and fresh mulch. Ethica Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Giovanna Tantini 2021 La Rocca (Bardolino).** This easy wine pops out of the glass with ripe and forward aromas of strawberry and cherry with hints of green herbs and violet. The fresh palate pops with tart red currants that are balanced by subtle savory elements. Ethica Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## LOMBARDY WHITE WINES

### LUGANA

**94** **Marangona 2022 Marangona (Lugana).** This wine has aromas of MacIntosh apples, white flowers, mint and wet stone minerality. Taut and structured, this wine sits firm on the palate with a distinct saltiness followed by sage, apricot and tart green apple. Enjoyable now with some oysters or seafood, but tuck it away in the cellar to wow your friends in a few years. Oliver McCrum Wines. **Cellar Selection.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**94** **Selva Capuzza 2022 Selva (Lugana).** Alluring from the moment the cork is pulled, this stunning Lugana opens with aromas of magnolia, lemon verbena, Fuji apple and wild herbs. The crisp and electric palate pops with mixed citrus notes, tart nectarine, thyme and salted almonds, finishing with a stony minerality. Artisan Wines, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**93** **Le Morette 2020 Riserva (Lugana).** Aromas of orange blossom, lemon oil and quince lift from the glass. The structured palate is taut with vibrant acidity and a texture that intrigues, yielding to flavors of apricot, tart lemon curd, wild herbs and sea salt. Drink now–2035 Uva Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**93** **Marangona 2021 Tre Campane (Lugana).** Tre Campane means “three bells” and is named to honor the three communes of Lugana from where the grapes for this wine come. Enticing aromas of

magnolia, lime blossom and peach drift from the glass. The wine balances the vivid fruit notes of apple, apricot and lemon with the savory herbal and salty mineral notes so well. Mouth watering to the end, this is a beautiful wine. Oliver McCrum Wines. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**93** **Ottella 2020 Molceo Riserva (Lugana).** For full review see page 14. Vias Imports. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$37

**93** **Pasini San Giovanni 2022 Il Lugana (Lugana).** The focused nose of this white wine opens with a mix of orchard, stone and citrus-fruit aromas that all meld seamlessly and then give way to mineral and savory aromas, fresh flowers and wild herbs. Mouth watering and structured, the rounded palate has a captivating texture and a saline finish. Coeur Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Ca' Lojera 2022 (Lugana).** Very pretty stone fruit defines the opening of this attractive wine. Notes of wild herbs with lemon and lime on the palate. Bright and refreshing acidity completes the salty and mineral finish. Soilair Selection. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**91** **Le Morette 2021 Benedictus (Lugana).** This Lugana opens with aromas of white peach, lemon blossom, lime zest and flint. Round and mouth filling, the palate captivates with flavors of Mandarin orange, baked apricots and Marcona almonds, finishing with crisp acidity. Uva Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**91** **Marangona 2021 Cemento (Lugana).** Named for the bell that signifies the end of the work day, the Marangona Lugana is exactly what this wine is for. Kick off the shoes, grab a glass and just lie back into the wafting aromas of white peach, lily and fresh green herbs. The palate is tart with notes of lemon and green apple that are followed by vibrant salty minerality, finishing with electric acidity Oliver McCrum Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Monte Zovo 2022 Le Civaie Terralbe (Lugana).** Wafting aromas of lily, mixed citrus zest, peach and wet stone lift from the glass of this pretty wine. Vibrant with a purity of fruit that shines with notes of lime, mango and a hint of honey with a salty minerality on the bright finish. Monte Zovo USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Ottella 2022 Le Creete (Lugana).** For full review see page 22. Vias Imports.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Tenuta Rovaglia 2022 Limne (Lugana).** For full review see page 26. John Given Wines. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90** **Ca' Lojera 2019 Riserva del Lupo (Lugana).** Slow to open, but once it does, notes of fresh peach and dried apricot swirl in the glass, with aromas of white flowers and beeswax. The palate is layered with dried-pear notes with a hint of honey all balanced by vibrant acidity. Soilair Selection. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**90** **Cascina Maddalena 2021 Capotesta (Lugana).** Savory and salty on the nose with notes of lily, citrus pith, almond and Bosc pear. Mouth watering, textured, mineral-driven and lean on the palate. This is a wine for those looking for a lean, crisp and salty white wine. The Shepherd Company. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Montonale 2022 Montunal (Lugana).** Aromas of fresh apple, peach and whispy white flowers emerge from the glass. As the wine develops, notes of green herbs and crushed stone arise. The lifted and fruity palate is mouth watering with its acidity, shows notes of green apple and mixed citrus, and finishes with a sea salt and shell minerality. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Olivini 2022 (Lugana).** This fresh and vibrant white lifts from the glass with aromas of mixed citrus zest, lemon blossom and a stony minerality. The rounded and textured palate opens with a creamy pear and peach note, with vibrant acidity on the finish. Tradizione Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Piona Franco e Luciano 2022 'LLac (Lugana).** Fresh Fuji apples and white peach sprinkled with sea salt lift from the glass. Crushed stone and oyster shell follow with subtle hints of white and yellow flowers. A combination of fresh orchard fruits and a salty minerality define that medium-bodied palate that finishes with notes of citrus peel. A savory finish. deGrazia Imports, LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Zeni 2022 Vignealte (Lugana).** This Lugana offers an expressive bouquet of citrus and white blossoms. On the palate, vibrant lemon and lime flavors shine through, accompanied by a refreshing acidity finishing with a bitter almond note. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89** **Buglioni 2022 Musa (Lugana).** This crisp white leaps from the glass with lemon, orange and green apple aromas followed by notes of magnolia and fresh herbs. The palate is bracing with electric acidity that shimmers down the palate, showcasing the tart citrus-fruit notes finishing



with a sea salt and sea shell minerality. Kobrand. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Cà Maiol 2021 Molin (Lugana).** This Lugana opens with aromas of delicate white flowers and ripe peach. On the palate, vibrant citrus flavors mingle with tropical fruit, finishing with zippy acidity. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Corte Sermana 2022 Cromalگو (Lugana).** This Lugana opens with vibrant citrus and citrus-blossom aromas followed by notes of apricot. Lemon and lime flavors shine through on the palate, accompanied by a refreshing acidity and salty minerality. Summit Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89 Monte del Frà 2022 (Lugana).** This wine leaps from the glass with freshly cut peaches, sprinkled with mint, a touch of salt and a bouquet of white flowers. This fruit-forward wine pops on the palate with crisp green-apple notes, apricots, and raw almonds. The salty and mouth-watering finish makes this a great aperitivo wine or for fresh light dishes. Vision Wine & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**89 Olivini 2021 Demesse Vecchie (Lugana).** From the estate's single cru, this wine opens with aromas of ripe pears, lemon peel and oil, citrus blossom and a hint of river stone. The rounded palate offers a mix of orchard fruit, grapefruit and Mandarin orange, all followed by mouth-watering acidity and a saline finish. Tradizione Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Ottella 2022 (Lugana).** Bursting with citrus aromas, this Lugana dances on the palate with vibrant lemon, lime and white-floral notes. Its medium body and crisp acidity give a refreshing and invigorating palate that shines with mixed citrus, peach and blanched almond flavors. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Abate 2022 (Lugana).** With its aromatic complexity, this Lugana delights with notes of white flowers and ripe peach. The palate reveals a balance between citrus and tropical-fruit flavors. Dolce Vita Wine Merchant. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Cà dei Frati 2022 I Frati (Lugana).** This wine opens with aromas of white flowers, white peach and a subtle almond note. The palate shows ripe pear, apricot and lemon zest, finishing with a salty minerality. Ethica Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Cà Maiol 2022 Molin (Lugana).** This Lugana opens with aromas of delicate white flowers and ripe peach. On the palate, vibrant citrus flavors

mingle with tropical fruit finishing with zippy acidity. Santa Margherita USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88 Cà Maiol 2022 (Lugana).** Aromas of Mandarin orange, ripe peach and wild flowers flow from the glass. Lemon and grapefruit flavors take center stage, creating a vibrant and refreshing palate with zippy acidity. Santa Margherita USA. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88 Montonale 2021 Orestilla (Lugana).** Lively lemon and grapefruit aromas pop out of the glass of this fresh Lugana. Clean and crisp on the palate with a lovely texture. White-peach flavors finishing with a hint of almond and bright acidity. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 Tenuta Rovaglia 2020 Vigne di Catullo Riserva (Lugana).** Aromas of Meyer lemon, star fruit and jasmine lead the way on this Lugana Riserva. Medium in body with a creamy texture, extended again with flavors of roasted orange and peach finishing, with a crushed-stone minerality and bright acidity. John Given Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**87 Avanzi 2022 Sirmione (Lugana).** Gentle aromas of white blossoms, yellow peach and candied lemon peel. On the palate, vibrant citrus flavors mingle with tropical fruit to a vibrant and fresh finish. The Harvest Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**87 Feliciano 2022 Felugan (Lugana).** Captivating aromas of fresh white flowers, ripe peach and lime. On the palate, vibrant citrus flavors mingle with notes of tropical fruit sprinkled with sea salt, finishing with crunchy acidity. Ribevi Wines Int. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**87 Perla del Garda 2022 Perla (Lugana).** A sensory overload in the best way, this Lugana pops with an expressive bouquet of mixed citrus and white flowers. On the palate, notes of lemon, lime and peach meld, creating a well-structured and refreshing white wine. Wine Emporium. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Pilandro 2022 Tere Crea (Lugana).** Delicate aromas of citrus blossoms with lemon zest, and nectarine. The bright palate pops with mixed citrus notes and almonds with a stony minerality on the crisp finish. Omnivines Distribution. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**86 Nunzio Ghiraldi 2022 Il Gruccone (Lugana).** Preserved peach and struck-flint aromas lift from the glass of this Lugana with subtle hints of lime blossom. The generous palate shows candied lemon zest and dried apricot, and finishes with a peach pit and blanched-almond note. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

## LUGANA SUPERIORE

**90 Seitterre 2020 Gigi Rizzi No. 1 Collection (Lugana Superiore).** For full review see page 23. Vino d'Italia.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Ca' Lojera 2019 (Lugana Superiore).** Lime blossom, peach and Mandarin orange aromas open the nose of this pretty wine. The bright palate gives a bushel full of mixed citrus and stone fruit flavors followed by salted almond and crushed-stone notes. Soilair Selection. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**87 Perla del Garda 2021 Madonna della Scoperta Turbiana (Lugana Superiore).** The wine opens with vibrant citrus aromas, green pear and tons of white flowers. Lemon and grapefruit flavors dominate the palate, while a touch of tropical fruit adds depth, finishing with a zippy acidity. Wine Emporium. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

## FRANCIACORTA

**95 Mosnel 2007 Extra Brut EBB (Franciacorta).** This 100% Chardonnay is a classic and refined example of late-release vintage wines. It opens with aromas of spiced apples, warmed brioche, honey-drizzled roasted hazelnuts and pressed yellow flowers. The rich and unctuous palate is layered with orchard and stone fruits, crème fraîche and toasted oak, but all balanced by electric acidity and flinty minerality. Vintus LLC. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

**95 Mosnel 2007 Rosé Pas Dosé Parosé (Franciacorta).** Understated at first, with aromas of rose, wild strawberry and strawberry leaf lifting out of the glass. As the wine opens, it begins to shine with raspberry jam and brioche, and savory spices. The vinous palate opens with exotic spices with tart red berries finishing with hints of roasted nuts, oak spice, a crushed stone note and a soft and delicate perlage. Vintus LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

**94 Ca' del Bosco NV Cuvée Prestige Rosé Edizione 45 (Franciacorta).** 80% Pinot Nero and 20% Chardonnay combine to make this stunning wine. It opens with aromas of wild strawberries, cranberry, fresh brioche and wild rose. Balanced between tart fruits, savory herbs and minerality, the wine dances on the palate with complexity and enjoyability in tandem, finishing with elegance and grace. Drink now–2035. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$60

**94 Ca' del Bosco 2018 Vintage Collection Dosage Zéro (Franciacorta).** A blend of mainly Chardonnay with Pinot Noir and Pinot Blanc this organically grown sparkler is focused, layered and

textured. The wine opens with aromas of freshly baked apple tart drizzled with warmed honey, with hazelnuts and vanilla in the background. The focused palate is lively with electric acidity that's bracing at first, then eases as the candied-citrus notes and baked orchard fruits show themselves finishing with flinty minerality and a persistent, long-lived perlage. Drink now–2035. Santa Margherita USA. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$75

## 94 Castello Bonomi 2009 Riserva Lucrezia Etichetta Bianca Extra Brut (Franciacorta).

For full review see page 6. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Editors' Choice*.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$155

## 94 Mosnel 2009 Pas Dosé Riserva (Franciacorta).

Aged for 12 years, this wine opens with aromas of toasted hazelnut, baked apple, fresh brioche, drying flowers and sweet spices. Elegantly crafted and so textural you just want to ruminate on the wine. It has depth and a synergy between the baked citrus and pear, minerality and a creamy texture. Drink Now–2035. Vintus LLC. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$90

## 93 Barone Pizzini 2019 Rosé Extra Brut (Franciacorta).

A classic rosé with aromas of crushed cherries, freshly baked pastries, wildflowers and hints of plum. Energetic on the palate with vibrant acidity that pops with tart, red-hued fruits and blood orange finishing with a creamy mousse. Winebow Imports. —J.P.

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

## 93 Berlucchi 2011 Palazzo Lana Extreme (Franciacorta).

This 100% Pinot Noir from the classic and historic Berlucchi estate does not disappoint. Aromas of roasted pineapple, grilled peach, warmed honey, baking spices, and fresh bread define the heady nose. The rich and structured palate shows notes of candied citrus, white strawberry and crushed stone, finishing with crisp and radiant. Volio Vino. —J.P.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$140

## 93 Castello Bonomi 2009 Riserva Lucrezia Etichetta Nera Extra Brut (Franciacorta).

Aged for more than a decade on the lees, this Pinot Noir-lead wine opens with aromas of freshly baked mixed fruit and citrus tart, with roasted hazelnuts, warmed honey and vanilla. Aged but lively, this wine will keep going, but shows concentrated and roasted orchard fruit and citrus notes on the palate, with a creamy and rounded texture bolstered by fine acidity and an elegant perlage. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$120

## 93 Corte Bianca 2017 Rosé Extra Brut (Franciacorta).

Enticing aromas of mixed red and black berries with fresh brioche and candied citrus lift out of the glass of this elegant wine. The textured palate opens with a core of cherry and black-

berry with hints of wildflowers on the very pure and elegant finish. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$51

## 93 Monte Rossa NV P.R. Brut Blanc de Blancs (Franciacorta).

This wine is unique as it used 35% of reserve wine that gives it added richness, depth and complexity. It opens with fresh and baked-apple notes, freshly baked bread, toasted almonds and dried yellow flowers. Despite its richness, the palate has racy acidity with mixed orchard fruits and lemon curd, finishing with a flinty minerality. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.

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

## 92 Contadi Castaldi 2018 Zèro (Franciacorta).

Aromas of freshly baked bread served with warmed apples and a hint of butter waft from the glass of this wine. The energetic palate pops with green-apple skin, roasted hazelnut and mixed citrus on the crisp and mineral-driven finish. Terra Moretti Trading. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$28

## 92 Ricci Curbastro 2013 Gualberto Dosagio Zero (Franciacorta).

Dominated by Pinot Noir and blended with Chardonnay this heady Franciacorta opens with aromas of roasted peach, freshly baked bread, vanilla and roasted walnut. The creamy palate is giving but balanced, with crisp acidity striking a balance between fruit and mineral notes, all leading to a persistent perlage. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

## 91 Bonfadini NV Carpe Diem Satèn (Franciacorta).

Gentle aromas of white peach, lemon tart and honey lift from the glass of this pretty wine. Lively and bright, the palate pops with green apple and citrus peel as subtle floral notes add elegance; finishes with a soft and gentle perlage. Bottle to Glass. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

## 91 Castel Faglia NV Monogram Cuvée Blanc de Blancs Brut (Franciacorta).

Aromas of peach tart, acacia honey and wild thyme lift from the glass of this wine. A blend of savory and fruity notes mingle on the palate, all leading to a citrus-dominated palate and finishing with refined perlage and vibrant acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.

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

## 91 Castello Bonomi 2019 Rosè Brut Millesimato (Franciacorta).

This sparkling wine deftly balances aromas of vibrant red-fruit notes with savory herbal and floral elements alongside fresh yeast rolls. The palate pops with electricity and energy, with tart raspberries and cherries giving way to the spirited perlage. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

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

## 91 Castello Bonomi 2019 Satèn Millesimato (Franciacorta).

Made of 100% Chardonnay, this Satèn opens with fresh floral notes that wrap around aromas of apple, brioche and baking spices. The lifted palate is soft and elegant, with notes of

baked pears and ginger, and finishing with a creamy texture. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.

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

## 91 Ferghettina NV Brut (Franciacorta).

Fresh and vibrant on the nose, with aromas of peach, apple tart and hints of ginger. Giving and rounded on the palate. Notes of poached pear, candied lemon peel and crushed stone, finishing with bright acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

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

## 91 Ferghettina 2018 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).

Aromas of citrus, apples, and hints of crusty bread leap out of the glass. The wine is bright and fresh on the palate, delivering flavors of lemon curd, baked apples and flinty minerality. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

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

## 91 La Montina NV Satèn (Franciacorta).

The wine opens with aromas of fresh apple tart, with sweet spices and thyme followed by white flowers and hints of honey. The vibrant palate pops with mixed citrus, hazelnut and crème fraîche, finishing with a textured and rounded finish. Wine Affairs. —J.P.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$32

## 91 Monte Rossa NV Flamingo Rosé Brut (Franciacorta).

Aromas of pomegranate, dried strawberries, brioche and wildflowers waft from the glass. The rounded palate is giving with cherries in cream that are balanced by crisp acidity and finishing with a fine perlage. Dark Star Imports. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

## 91 Mosnel NV Brut Rosé (Franciacorta).

Wild cherry aromas mixed with fresh strawberries, croissant and roasted nuts lift from the glass of this pretty wine. Soft and round on the palate, with a creamy mousse, the wine pops with mixed red fruits and candied orange, and finishing with a slight mineral edge. Vintus LLC. —J.P.

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

## 90 Bonfadini NV Nobilium Brut (Franciacorta).

This wine opens with pretty aromas of yellow apples, croissant and wild broom. Light and refreshing, the palate shows notes of candied lemon, orange peel and pear tart, while the gentle mousse creates a creamy and easy finish. Bottle to Glass. —J.P.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

## 90 Castel Faglia NV Monogram Cuvée Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).

This wine opens with aromas of mixed citrus, orchard fruit, roasted nuts and pastry dough. The rounded palate shows flavors of apricot and honey finishing with a sea-salt note and crisp acidity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.

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

## 90 Castello Bonomi NV Cuvée 22 Brut (Franciacorta).

Aromas of mixed orchard fruits combine with freshly baked bread and jasmine



on the nose of this energetic wine. The crisp and vibrant palate lifts with candied lemon zest, green apple skin, baking spices and roasted nuts, and finishing with a flinty minerality. Serendipity Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90** **Ferghettina 2018 Milledì Brut (Franciacorta).** With flavors reminiscent of apple tart, cinnamon and a touch of cream. The medium-bodied palate offers notes of yellow plum, candied lemon and pressed yellow flowers, finishing with a balance between the creamy texture and vibrant acidity. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Monzio Compagnoni 2019 Rosè Brut (Franciacorta).** A mélange of red apples, nectarine, wild strawberries and fresh flowers leap from the glass. The gentle palate showcases hints of watermelon, boysenberry and wild herbs, finishing with crisp acidity. Bottle Hyve GmbH. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$46

**90** **Ricci Curbastro NV Brut (Franciacorta).** This sparkler is a blend of 60% Chardonnay, 30% Pinot Blanc and 10% Pinot Noir, and lifts from the glass with aromas of roasted apples baked in fresh pastry dough and a sprinkle of baking spice. The creamy palate pops on the finish with crunchy green-apple notes, lemon zest and a hint of crushed stone. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Antica Fratta 2018 Essence Rosé (Franciacorta).** This elegant wine gently lifts from the glass with aromas of wild strawberries, candied citrus and wildflowers. Creamy on the palate, with hints of hazelnut and vanilla finishing with a soft mousse and long finish. Soilair Selection. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Bonfadini NV Veritas Brut Nature (Franciacorta).** Opening with aromas of citrus blossom, brioche and roasted hazelnuts. The crisp palate leans towards flavors of green apple and lemon zest, with a hint of honey on the fine and elegant finish. Bottle to Glass. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Contadi Castaldi NV Brüt (Franciacorta).** Balanced aromas of ripe orchard fruits, savory herbs and crusty bread all swirl together in the glass in this sparkler. Crisp green-apple flavors give way to notes of dried lemon peel, roasted nuts and a hint of vanilla on the creamy finish. Terra Moretti Trading. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Contadi Castaldi 2018 Satèn (Franciacorta).** Pretty and lifted aromas of yellow peach, baked apple, brioche and a steely minerality define this wine. Fleshy on the palate, with rounded and ripe apricot and pear, hints of lemon zest skate on the palate as the wine ends with a soft and gentle perlage. Terra Moretti Trading. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**89** **Le Marchesine 2019 Rosé Millesimato (Franciacorta).** Fresh and fruity aromas of red berries, citrus zest and freshly baked bread waft from the glass of this wine. Notes of wild cherries and red currants pop on the palate, with subtle floral hints and a persistent perlage. Lyra Wine. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$44

**89** **Mirabella NV Brut Rosé (Franciacorta).** This vibrant rosé lifts from the glass with aromas of wild strawberries, mixed flowers and a hint of fresh toast. The clean and crisp palate pops with tart red berries and features an elegant perlage. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**89** **Ricci Curbastro 2019 Satèn Brut (Franciacorta).** Aromas of Fuji apple, candied Mandarin and white peach lift from the glass. As the wine opens, notes of brioche, white flowers and flint begin to show. The crisp palate pops with citrus and green pear, lifted by fresh acidity and a vibrant perlage. Tavolo Vigneto. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$55

**88** **Elisabett Abrami NV Rosé (Franciacorta).** This sparkling rosé opens with mixed red-hued fruits, candied citrus and wildflowers. The palate is balanced between the energetic acidity and creamy note of the lees aging, finishing with an elegant perlage. Dionysos Imports Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$39

**87** **Santa Lucia NV Brut (Franciacorta).** Roasted nuts, brioche and baked pears dusted in spice open the nose of this forward and giving Franciacorta. Mature, with flavors of grilled citrus topped with cream fraiche leading to a creamy finish. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## DESSERT WINE

**88** **Conte Vistarino 2022 Costiolo (Oltrepò Pavese).** This is a throwback of a wine that pulls at the nostalgic heartstrings in all the right ways. A blend of Barbera and Croatina, it is loaded with raspberries that have been macerated with a little sugar, spiced with cinnamon and violets thrown in for good measure. The sweet and fruity palate is balanced by the vibrant acidity. Super fun and perfect for dishes that are bitter or spicy. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 7% **Price:** \$19

## LOMBARDY RED WINES

### OLTREPÒ PAVESE

**90** **Conte Vistarino 2019 Pernice Pinot Nero (Oltrepò Pavese).** Dark cherry aromas intertwine with violets, wild herbs and forest floor, dusted with baking spices and creating a captivat-

ing nose. The generous and rich palate showcases a bounty of macerated and fresh wild berries, complemented by chai spice, cedar and fine oak-derived tannins. The finish reveals notes of mushroom and freshly turned earth adding to its complexity. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Conte Vistarino 2021 Costa del Nero (Oltrepò Pavese).** Bright and elevated aromas of sour cherries and cranberries lift from the glass while herbal notes slowly rise. Soft and rounded on the palate, with juicy red berries, tea leaves and turned earth on the finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Conte Vistarino 2019 Bertone Pinot Nero (Oltrepò Pavese).** This ruby-red wine opens with aromas of tart mixed red berries, roses, cocoa, oak spice and pine. The elegant tannins lead the way, with bright acidity popping the sour cherry and cranberry notes on the palate and finishing with a savory and earthy note. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**87** **Conte Vistarino 2019 Tavernetto Pinot Nero (Oltrepò Pavese).** Ripe and macerated strawberries draw attention to the nose, as savory herbal notes slowly begin to open with oak spice following. Medium in body with notes of cherry, allspice and vanilla, and finishing with ripe tannins and a kiss of acidity. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER RED WINES

**88** **Nino Negri 2019 Quadrio (Valtellina Superiore).** This unique blend of 90% Nebbiolo (locally called Chiavennasca) and 10% Merlot opens with dark plum aromas mixed with the savory spice and earth-driven notes of the Nebbiolo. The polished palate offers smoked fig, cocoa-dusted dried cherries, leather and tobacco, finishing with firm tannins. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Selva Capuzza 2018 Dunant (Riviera del Garda Classico).** This ruby-red wine lifts out of the glass with bright aromas of cherry, raspberry and wildflowers. The easy and fresh palate sings with high-toned red fruits and savory spice, as the mouth-watering acidity makes each sip refreshing. Artisan Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

## PIEDMONT WHITE WINES

### MOSCATO D'ASTI

**94** **Saracco 2023 (Moscatò d'Asti).** Aromas of white peach, magnolia, sage and wild mint waft from the glass of this Moscato d'Asti. The palate is a study in balance, as the sweetness bends to

# BUYINGGUIDE

the crisp acidity on the finish. WinesU. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 6% **Price:** \$19

**93 Caudrina 2022 La Galeisa (Moscato d'Asti).** Wildflowers, mint and white-peach aromas waft from the glass of this classic example of Moscato d'Asti. The bracing acidity lifts the palate and balances the wine as it shines with apricot and candied lemon and gentle bubbles on the finish. Enotria Wine Import. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$20

**93 Gianni Doglia 2022 Casa di Bianca (Moscato d'Asti).** This stunner of a Moscato comes from organically farmed grapes from the third generation of the Doglia family. The wine opens with beautiful aromas of white peach, wild mint, Mandarin oranges and a hint of candied pineapple. The electric palate pops with green apple, apricot and candied lemon, with vibrant acidity and soft bubbles on the finish. Petit Pois. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$28

**92 Marengo 2022 Strev (Moscato d'Asti).** Apricot, green apple and melon aromas define the nose of this wine, while whispers of white flowers follow. Fresh white peach and candied lemon zest are balanced by bright acidity on the fresh palate, finishing with soft and gentle bubbles. Vias Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15

**91 Fabio Perrone 2022 Cascina Galletto (Moscato d'Asti).** Vibrant aromas of nectarine, jasmine and lime zest lift from the glass of this pretty Moscato. The zippy palate pops with a hint of green-apple skin, followed by notes of sage and mint, and finishing with bright acidity. GD Import Giacomo di Lisi. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$15

**91 Icardi 2022 La Rosa Selvatica Organic (Moscato d'Asti).** Aromas of white peach, citrus blossom, wild mint and candied lemon. The light and refreshing palate pops with mixed-citrus rinds, dried and candied, and finishing with vibrant acidity. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Guasti Clemente 2022 Santa Teresa (Moscato d'Asti).** Orange blossom, acacia honey and peach aromas lift from the glass. Loads of stone fruit on the palate are balanced by tart and fresh acidity, with a foamy finish. Vintage Wine Marketing. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$10

**87 Cerrino 2022 (Moscato d'Asti).** Aromas of yellow peach, mint and magnolia waft from the glass of this pretty Moscato d'Asti. Fresh and fruity on the palate, with green apple and tart apricot on the finish. Direct Wine Imports of Texas, Inc.. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Vinchio Vaglio 2022 Valamasca (Moscato d'Asti).** Candied peaches, lily and orange-peel aromas open the nose of this wine. Lush and fruity, with fresh and preserved stone-fruit notes that give way to a light finish. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Castello del Poggio 2022 (Moscato d'Asti).** This wine opens with aromas of candied apricot, white flowers and candied pear. Fresh and very fruity, this wine is easy and tasty. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$14

**85 Marco Bonfante 2022 (Moscato d'Asti).** Pear drops and preserved peach aromas lift from the glass of this Moscato. Lush and fruity on the palate, with a fresh fruit-salad note and a hint of wild herbs on the finish. Misa Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15

**85 Umberto Fiore 2022 (Moscato d'Asti).** Light and fresh aromas of yellow peach, geranium and candied lemon lift from the glass. Foamy on the palate, with loads of preserved stone fruits, mint and sweet citrus. Aveniù Brands, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$20

**83 Castello del Poggio 2021 Moscato d'Asti (Moscato d'Asti).** Easy, fresh and fruity, this Moscato delivers the classic stone fruit, citrus and wildflowers you expect, with a light and easy finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$14

## NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

**92 Sara Vezza 2019 Spumante Brut Rosé Metodo Classico (Nebbiolo d'Alba).** This wine exudes aromas of yeasted bread, tart strawberries, green apples and lemon. On the palate, it is lean and focused, with a crunchy acidity that adds to its overall appeal. USA Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$46

## PIEDMONT RED WINES

**93 Cantine Garrone 2020 Cà d' Maté (Piedmont).** The wine opens with aromas of grilled plums and burnt sage, revealing a smoky character. On the palate, sour red fruits, dried flowers, with crushed chalk making an appearance in the strong mineral finish. Drink now–2035. Polaner Selections. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Cantine Garrone 2021 Munaloss (Piedmont).** Reserved at first, the wine requires time to open up. Once it does, it offers aromas of boysenberry, damson plum, twig and herbal notes. The palate showcases sour mixed fruits, a bitter

finish, savory herbs and fine tannins. Drink now–2033. Polaner Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Dezzani 2021 Albarossa (Piemonte).** Albarossa is a cross between Chatus and Barbera, and opens with aromas of black cherry and plum all surrounded by savory spice and dried flowers. Forward with its dark-hued fruit at first, the wine is brought into balance with tea-like tannins, notes of leather and crunchy acidity on the finish. Misa Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**86 Cantine Povero 2022 Cascina San Lorenzo Barbera (Piemonte).** Plum, cherry and spice notes are present. The palate mimics the nose, finishing with a soft and easy. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

**86 Fontanafredda 2022 Briccotondo Dolcetto (Piemonte).** This wine exhibits aromas of wildflowers, herbs and sour red fruits, with hints of savory spice. The drying tannins on the palate subdue the fruit, while more herbal and tea-like tannins emerge on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

## MONFERRATO

**93 Scarpa 2019 Freisa (Monferrato).** This wine shows the relationship with Nebbiolo as wild red-berried fruits, sage, thyme, fresh rose and incense spice rise from the glass. The well-structured wine has fine tannins and a beautiful balance between tart cherries and underbrush, as the fine tannins provide a grip on the finish. Liber USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**92 Scarpa 2019 Rouchet (Monferrato).** Ruché is a lively and aromatic red that has a place on your table. Made from Rouché grapes, this Scarpa is the place to start if this grape is new to you. Forward and lifted aromas of boysenberry, macerated raspberries and wildflowers leap from the glass. The wine is bright and fresh with tart red fruits, rose, violet and fresia swirling together as the fine tannins and vibrant acidity bring the wine home. Liber USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**87 Bricco dei Guazzi 2020 Presidenta (Monferrato).** The wine exhibits a dark, brooding and earthy character, with roasted plum and blackberry-compote aromas. There is an abundance of warmed baking spices and licorice on the palate, supported by fine tannins. Leone Alato USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$38

**86 Cantine Povero 2022 Capitano del Palio Dolcetto (Monferrato).** Lifted aromas of wildflowers, herbs and crushed sour cherry fill the glass. The palate reveals notes of cranberry and currant



preserves, with hints of dried flowers. The finish is relatively short. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**86 Sassaia 2021 (Monferrato).** Black plum and spice, with violets dominate the nose. The plush palate is loaded with juicy dark-hued fruits and finishes with savory spices. Sassaia LLC. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**85 Cascina Faletta 2021 Baudolino (Monferrato).** Witch hazel, sour plum and pomegranate create a really wild and distinctive aroma, with hints of savory and earthy qualities. Beviamo International. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## BARBERA D'ASTI

**89 Aresca 2021 La Moretta (Barbera d'Asti).** Candied cherry aromas, accompanied by sweet chai and dried leaves greet the nose. The palate is lifted by tart mixed berries, featuring mouth-watering acidity and savory spice and herb notes on the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Bricco dei Guazzi 2021 (Barbera d'Asti).** Warmed cherries with clove and cinnamon evolve into hints of dried leaf and wild herbs. Mouth filling, with liquored plums, black pepper and fresh mulch on the plate, finishing with tart acidity. Leone Alato USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$22

**88 Bricco dei Guazzi 2019 (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Dark and intense in color, this wine exudes aromas of black-plum compote, white pepper, distilled violet and sweet spices. The bold and rich palate is loaded with blackberries and cherry jam, along with clove, vanilla and oak spices that shine on the finish. Leone Alato USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$43

**88 Icardi 2019 Nuj Suj Organic (Barbera d'Asti Superiore).** Blueberry compote with hints of cream, vanilla and sweet spices precedes a whiff of purple flowers. The round palate presents a mix of juicy liquored berries, oak spice and tannins, finishing with a pop of acidity. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Castello del Poggio 2021 (Barbera d'Asti).** Exotic spices, caramelized cherries and plum skin mingle with dried violets. Hints of tea, fine tannins and underbrush notes emerge on the finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Damilano 2021 (Barbera d'Asti).** This wine offers flavors of boysenberry and macerated black plum, accompanied by allspice and hints of pepper. It presents a lush profile with black licorice and fine tannins on the palate. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$24

## GRIGNOLINO D'ASTI

**93 Braida di Giacomo Bologna 2022 Limonte (Grignolino d'Asti).** Limonte is a classic example of the Grignolino grape, with aromas of red currant and pomegranate seeds that meld with herbal and intense floral notes. The mouth-watering palate pops with tart red berries, wild herbs and an unexpected minerality that can make you do a double take. Soilair Selection. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**92 Crotin 2021 San Patelu (Grignolino d'Asti).** This light and refreshing red rolls out of the glass with aromas of strawberries, fresh green herbs and wildflowers. Delicate at first, the wine is more than it seems, with a core of pristine red-berried fruits, spiced tea and an iron-like minerality on the finish. Give it a little chill for its best self. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Crivelli 2022 (Grignolino d'Asti).** Crushed cranberry and tart raspberry juice are surrounded by fresh green herbs and savory spice. The palate offers crunchy mixed red-berry fruits with notes of tea leaves, dried rose and fine tannins. Jan D'Amore Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

## BARBERA D'ALBA

**91 Pelissero 2020 Piani (Barbera d'Alba).** Dark as night in color, the wine offers aromas of plums macerated in baking spice, along with earthy undertones and oak spice. The lush palate is rounded with licorice and cinnamon, finishing with fine oak tannins and lifted acidity. It provides a spicy experience. Drink now—2035 Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Fontanafredda 2022 (Barbera d'Alba).** Lifted floral aromas combine with sour cherry and plum, sprinkled with a hint of fresh herbs. The vivid palate is loaded with mixed red and black fruits, hints of sweet and savory spice, and finishes with crunchy acidity. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Tenuta Rocca 2022 (Barbera d'Alba).** Fresh, floral and purple fruited, this wine exudes youthfulness. The palate is bright and fresh, showcasing tart blue and black fruits, sour plum, blueberry, a hint of earth and lively acidity. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Cascina Chicco 2021 Granera Alta (Barbera d'Alba).** Extracted in color, this wine reveals oak spices, ripe plums and dried black cherries. Aromas of clove, cinnamon and vanilla waft from the glass, accompanied by candied violets. The rich palate is loaded with ripe mixed berry fruits,

cedar and oak, finishing with zippy acidity. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Fontanafredda 2021 Raimonda (Barbera d'Alba).** Concentrated aromas of black plums mingle with savory spice, flowers and hints of earth. Plump purple fruits are balanced by lively acidity, wildflowers and sweet tea notes on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**89 Palladino 2020 (Barbera d'Alba).** Aroma of dried wildflowers waft from the glass, giving way to red plum and sour-cherry notes. Mixed herbs and game come through on the palate, accompanied by tart red berries. The wine is supported by fine tannins and mouth-watering acidity. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Virna Borgogno 2021 (Barbera d'Alba).** Oak spice melds with mixed cherries, both fresh and crushed, along with hints of wild herbs and candied blue violet. The palate is fresh, showcasing more red berries, making it tasty and easy to drink, with a slightly earthy note on the finish. Shiverick Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**88 Palladino 2020 Bricco Delle Olive (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** The nose reveals a savory, herbal and floral character, with sour red fruits becoming more prominent as the wine opens. Herbaceous and tart on the palate with bright and crunchy acidity on the finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$34

**88 Pietro Rinaldi 2020 Bricco Cichetta (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** This wine is a very classic example, featuring warmed cherries mingled with sweet spices and savory notes. It offers mouth-watering acidity and is overall an easy and tasty wine. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**87 Pietro Rinaldi 2020 Monpiano (Barbera d'Alba).** Crushed mixed berries of the forest, sprinkled with sweet spices and violet petals define this wine. The palate is round, with plush plum flavors that gradually give way to mixed spices. The finish is a touch short, but overall it is a simple and tasty wine. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Tenuta Rocca 2021 Vigna Ròca Neira (Barbera d'Alba Superiore).** Upfront aromas of wild blackberries and dried flowers are kissed with sweet spice. The palate, however, feels slightly dried out, with more tannin than expected. Notes of black tea, dried citrus and potpourri spices emerge on the somewhat astringent finish. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$43

## BARBARESCO

**93 Ceresetto 2020 Gallina (Barbaresco).** A wine to savor in every way. This stunner fills the glass with cherry, raspberry, rose, clove, underbrush and wild herbs. Elegant, the palate is generous, but not yet fully giving, needing a bit more time in the bottle. Drink 2026–2040. Trinchero Family Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Luca Bosio 2020 Boschi dei Signori (Barbaresco).** Vivid aromas leap from the glass and catch the attention immediately with mixed flowers, dried orange peel, cinnamon sticks and plump red berries. The palate is a balance between notes of cherry and cranberry preserves with incense, black tea and medicinal herbs snugly fit between super-fine tannins and crunchy mouth-watering acidity. Drink 2026–2040. Quintessential. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**93 Rivetto 2020 Nervo (Barbaresco).** Subtle at first, this lovely Barbaresco wafts out of the glass with crushed cherry and raspberry aromas supported by rose bud, sandalwood and savory herbs. Giving, but with great structure, the core of fruit on the palate is pristine, yielding to well-crafted tannins, lifted acidity and an earthy finish. Drink 2026–2040. Volio Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**91 Piazzi Armando 2020 Rizzi Vigna Fratin (Barbaresco).** Fratin is dialect for “little brother,” as the vineyard was once owned by a group of friars and today is a classy cru of Barbaresco. This wine opens with aromas of preserved red and blue wild berries, sweet baking spices, blue violets and a touch of dried leaf. Juicy and jammy cherries pop on the palate with clove, vanilla and licorice finishing with a hint of tobacco with fine and firm tannins. Drink 2026–2040. Angelini Wine. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Pico Maccario 2020 (Barbaresco).** Lifted bright red berries, roses and violets rise out of the glass. As the wine opens, a mix of sweet and savory spices entice you into the glass. The generous palate is giving, with plump macerated cherries dusted with licorice and clove, followed by fine tannins and crunch acidity. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**90 Ca’Romè 2018 Maria di Brùn (Barbaresco).** This Barbaresco is subtle at first and needs some time to open, but as it does, aromas of sour cherry, fresh rose, incense, cedar and underbrush begin to develop. On the palate, notes of raspberry preserves and savory spice finishes with soft tannins, making it easier to approach today. Drink now–2035. Demeine Estates. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$120

**90 Cascina Bruciata 2018 Rio Sordo (Barbaresco).** Opening with aromas of black cherries, wild mint, licorice and dried flowers, this Barbaresco lifts from the glass. Well structured, with elegant tannins and vibrant acidity showcasing the deep core of red fruits that finish with more savory and forest-floor notes. Drink 2025–2045. MS Walker. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Neirano 2019 Terzetto (Barbaresco).** This vibrant Barbaresco opens with aromas of bright fresh cherries, savory herbs, star anise and dried violets. The ample fruit on the palate pops on the palate, while the savory and earthy elements provide depth. Drink now–2038. Marchetti Co.. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**90 Piazzi Armando 2020 Argè (Barbaresco).** Argè is named for Armando and Gemma, the husband and wife duo who raised a family and grew a winery. This classic Barbaresco, a blend of different crus, lifts out of the glass with aromas of cherry, macerated raspberry, licorice, dried rose and underbrush. The elegant palate lifts with bright acidity and fine tannins with flavors of cranberry, sweet and savory spice and dried thyme on the finish. Drink Now–2035. Angelini Wine. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Piazzi Armando 2020 Pajorè (Barbaresco).** The Barbaresco opens with lifted aromas of sour cherry, dried thyme and wildflowers. The savory palate gives forest floor, licorice root and dried red currants, finishing with fine-grained tannins. Drink 2026–2036. Angelini Wine. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**89 Rivetti Massimo 2020 Cà Di Bruno (Barbaresco).** Dedicated to Bruno Rivetti—the patriarch—the Cà di Bruno opens with aromas of dried cherries, bay leaf and rose. The medium-bodied and elegant palate finds notes of dried thyme, amaro botanicals and wild berries, finishing with elegant tannins. Drink now–2035. Angel’s Share Wines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Bel Colle 2020 (Barbaresco).** This pretty and aromatic Barbaresco lifts from the glass with aromas of wild rose, liquored cherries and Five Spice powder. The refined palate is elegant with integrated tannins, soft plush red fruits and hints of dried herbs, finishing with a touch of crushed stone. Drink now–2035. Quintessential. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Ricossa 2019 Ricossa (Barbaresco).** Subtle aromas of dried raspberries, orange peel, wild thyme and savory spice waft from the glass. The high-toned palate shows crushed cranberry flavors with clove, licorice root and underbrush, with dusty tannins on the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88 Ricossa 2014 Riserva (Barbaresco).** Reflective of the vintage, the Riserva is elegant and lifted out of the glass with aromas of dried cherries and roses, with black tea and truffle. The palate is fine and elegant with slightly dusty tannins leading to a mineral and savory finish. Drink now–2030. Winesellers, Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 San Silvestro 2020 Magno (Barbaresco).** This classically styled Barbaresco opens with notes of macerated raspberries, star anise and underbrush. Structured with firm tannins, dusty earth and dried-herb notes that balance the candied cherry found on the palate. Drink now–2035. Kindred Vines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**88 Vite Colte 2020 La Casa in Collina (Barbaresco).** Wild and medicinal herbs mixed with macerated raspberries lift from the glass of this enticing Barbaresco. The palate is a balance between crushed red berries, sweet spice and dried flowers, while the taut palate frames the wine well. Drink 2025–2035. Opera Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

## BAROLO

**98 Giacomo Fenocchio 2019 Villero (Barolo).** The precision and beauty that Claudio Fenocchio is able to coax out of his wines is astonishing and this 2019 Villero is an opus. Dark cherry aromas lift from the glass, with layers of sweet and savory spice, black tea and rose bud. The wine is so generous and giving with a combination of wild red fruits and dark berries that meld perfectly with notes of cinchona bark, camphor, thyme and a distinct chalkiness. A sublime wine. Drink now–2050. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**97 G D Vajra 2019 Bricco delle Viole (Barolo).** Lifted aromas of crushed cherries and raspberries mixed with blue violets and savory spice on the nose. Super-fine tannins with crushed chalk; very floral with a bright and lifted palate. Mouth-watering acidity. Alluring, captivating, energetic and precise. Drink 2025–2050. Wine Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**96 G D Vajra 2019 Coste di Rose (Barolo).** This wine lifts from the glass with poise and confidence from the get go. Macerated and dried raspberries capture the attention, as wildflowers, herbs and truffles draw you deep into the glass. The textured palate offers layers of mixed red berries that are framed by fine, yet firm tannins and crunchy acidity. The wine ends with tart red fruits, mint and dusty chalk. Drink 2026–2045. Wine Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

**96 G D Vajra 2019 Ravera (Barolo).** Aromas of fresh and macerated black cherries mixed



with medicinal herbs and dried flowers lift from the glass. The well-structured palate yields a mix of tart raspberries, plums, herbs, mint and savory spices. Firm tannins give the wine a super structure that shows its depth, power and age ability. Drink 2026–2050. Wine Cellars. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**96 Giacomo Fenocchio 2019 Cannubi (Barolo).** This wine! There are moments when a wine has you and this one is it—from the start, with aromas of macerated cherries dusted with savory spice alongside drying roses, oolong tea and fresh thyme. Opulent on one side and taut on the other, this Cannubi gives it all on the palate. Wild red berries both dried and preserved are balanced with sublime savory elements finishing with elegant tannins and lifted acidity. Drink 2026–2050. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Damilano 2019 Brunate (Barolo).** This wine embodies the classic Nebbiolo character with sour cherry, mixed spices, leather and tea-leaf aromas, accompanied by an underbrush note. Fine tannins and mouth-watering acidity follow through, leading to a finish with a touch of minerality. Drink 2026–2040. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**94 Giacomo Fenocchio 2019 Bussia (Barolo).** Dense and dark, almost brooding aromas of black cherry and spiced damson plums lift from the glass with scents of pine, tea and wild herbs. A wine of gravitas and power that is well structured and, today, is giving darkly dried fruits, star anise and leather, finishing with firm tannins and mouth-watering acidity. Drink 2026–2050. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Broccardo 2019 San Giovanni (Barolo).** The San Giovanni comes from a vineyard over 30 years old and opens with aromas of wild cherries, rose bud, incense, wild herbs and licorice. The elegant and refined palate balances mixed red berries with savory spice, black tea and forest-floor earthiness, finishing with fine, yet firm tannins. Drink 2026–2045. Caput Mundi Wine Import. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Giacomo Fenocchio 2019 Castellero (Barolo).** This Barolo lifts from the glass with aromas of cranberry and pomegranate, medicinal herbs and dried wildflowers. The palate is firm and supremely structured, with dried raspberries giving way to tobacco and cinnamon. This wine is full of verve, but needs more time to really blossom. Drink 2026–2050. Skurnik Wines, Inc. *Editors' Choice*. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Rivetto 2017 Briccolina (Barolo).** Raspberry preserves, wild thyme and crushed flowers spill from the glass of this giving Barolo. Concentrated on the palate with liquored cherries, clove, incense and tobacco finishing with well-defined

tannins. Drink 2025–2040. Banville Wine Merchants. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$254

**92 Damilano 2019 Cannubi (Barolo).** Liquored raspberries waft from the glass, accompanied by drying rose petals, medicinal herbs and cinchona bark. The wine is well balanced, with sour red fruits and earthy elements working in tandem, leading to a finish with dusty, earthy notes and mouth-watering acidity. Drink 2026–2040. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$95

**91 Damilano 2019 Liste (Barolo).** Incense, dried cherries, dried thyme and spiced tea open the nose of this pretty Barolo. Elegant tannins shape the palate, revealing a core of tart red fruits, savory and sweet spices, leather and crushed stone. Drink 2026–2035. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$85

**91 Fontanafredda 2019 Proprietà in Fontanafredda (Barolo).** Black cherries, sour plum, violets, roses and star anise aromas all swirl in the glass. Stout, but not too broad shouldered, this wine balances the power and elegance that make us all love Barolo. Macerated mixed berries, sweet and savory spice all coalesce around the truffle, crushed stone and underbrush notes. Drink 2025–2040. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$115

**91 Pico Maccario 2019 Del Comune di Serralunga d'Alba (Barolo).** This Barolo opens with aromas of ripe cherries, crushed raspberries, mint and wildflowers. Hints of sweet and savory spice waft out as the wine opens. Tart red wild berries burst on the palate, as medicinal herbs provide a counterpoint to the juicy fruit flavors. Notes of spiced tea, leather and roasted earth emerge on the firm and well-structured palate. Drink now–2035. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Voerzio Martini 2019 (Barolo).** Juicy black cherry aromas lift immediately from the glass as notes of licorice, clove and fresh herbs follow. The taut palate showcases the classic Nebbiolo tannins that surround the sour cherry, wild raspberry and strawberry leaf notes. Salty on the finish, with mouth-watering acidity and subtle hints of tobacco and tea leaf finish off the wine. Drink 2026–2045. Massanois Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**90 Damilano 2019 Cerequio (Barolo).** Macerated raspberries and lifted aromas take the lead, supported by fine tannins. The palate is mouth watering and elegant, with a touch of dried herbs and mixed flowers. Juicy and enjoyable. Drink now to 2035. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**90 Negretti 2019 Monvigliero (Barolo).** Aromas of warmed cherries and raspberry jam fill the glass of this plush and giving Barolo. Notes

of rose, thyme and underbrush give balance to the plush fruit notes. The palate is round, with plump macerated mixed berries and a touch of black tea and crushed chalk on the elegant finish. Domace Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$120

**90 Negretti 2017 Indio Bricco Ambrogio Riserva (Barolo).** The Barolo delivers a plush and fruit-forward nose with ripe cherries, macerated raspberries, rose bud and fresh thyme. The plump and plush palate fills the mouth with mixed blue and red berries all spiked with clove, licorice and cinnamon, finishing with round and ripe tannins. Drink now–2035. Domace Vino. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$200

**89 Damilano 2019 Lecinquevigne (Barolo).** This Barolo opens with medicinal herbs, dried cherries and underbrush. Tea-leaf tannins drive the palate with sour red fruits, porcini and dried rose being framed by firm tannins and classic Nebbiolo acidity. Drink 2026–2040. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Franco Serra 2019 (Barolo).** Crushed mixed red-berry aromas dominate the nose, but as the wine begins to open, rose bud, black tea and crushed chalk notes emerge. The fine tannins shape the elegant palate allowing for a younger drinking Barolo, with vibrant crunch acidity on the finish. Drink now–2035. The Marchetti Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$37

**89 Moscone 2016 1877 (Barolo).** Heady and forward aromas of macerated raspberries, plums, candied roses and incense lift from the glass. The dark fruit notes hold court with black tea and tar notes in the background, finishing with elegant but firm tannins. Drink 2026–2040. Alarich Distributing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Moscone 2016 Bussia (Barolo).** Aromas of dried red cherries topped with anise and clove yield to tea leaf, hibiscus and dried orange peel. The palate is rounded and benefited from longer bottle age, having a balance between ripe red fruits and forest floor. Drink now–2035. Alarich Distributing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**89 Pico Maccario 2017 Vigna Rionda Riserva (Barolo).** This deep and rich Barolo opens with warmed cherry compote, licorice, clove and roasted earth. The dense and mouth-filling palate is generous with baked stone fruits, rosewood, wildflowers and oolong tea, with firm tannins. Drink 2025–2040. Winebow Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**88 Fontanafredda 2019 (Barolo).** Aromas of dried cherry, allspice, star anise and dried rose buds waft from the glass of this Barolo. Classically styled with fine lines of elegant tannins framing the high-toned red fruits, as earthy notes give

# BUYINGGUIDE

counterbalance on the bright finish. Drink now—2035. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$57

**88 Fortemasso 2017 Castelletto (Barolo).** Intense aromas of black-cherry jam, baking spices, dried blue flowers and leather spill from the glass. Rounded on the palate, with raspberry jam, dried blood-orange peel, licorice and tobacco, and dusty tannins on the finish. Panebianco. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**88 Rocca Giovanni 2019 Mosconi (Barolo).** This wine opens with aromas of tart raspberry, cedar, wild thyme and dried roses on the nose. Lush on the palate, with spiced cherries and baking spices at its core, firm tannins and lifted acidity on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**88 San Silvestro 2019 Del Comune Di Monforte D'Alba Nebbiolo (Barolo).** A blend of various crus of Monforte d'Alba, this Barolo opens with aromas of dried cherry, allspice and forest floor. Powerful and intense tannins define the palate as dusty earth notes and dried tart red berries stand in reserve, while classic Nebbiolo acidity lights up the finish. Kindred Vines. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**87 Costa di Bussia 2017 Bussia Riserva (Barolo).** Aromas of medicinal herbs and incense lift from the glass, followed by dried cherries and sandalwood. Taut, with gripping tannins seizing the palate, while spiced red plums and red currents pop. It all finishes with a dusty earth note. Siena Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$79

## DOLCETTO D'ALBA

**90 Palladino 2022 (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Lifted and super pretty aromas of sour blue and red fruits, accompanied by an abundance of violets. Medium bodied, with an easy-going nature, it finishes with tart red fruits and fine tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**90 Pelissero 2021 Munfrina (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Aromas of black plum dusted with savory spices and clove fill the glass, accompanied by hints of violets and oolong tea. The palate showcases dark-hued fruits balanced by dried herbs and turned-earth flavors, finishing with fine tannins. Some oak influence is present. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**90 Virna Borgogno 2022 (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Aromas of blue and purple fruits dominate the nose with hints of violets and savory spice. The wine strikes a tasty balance between savory and fruit flavors with plump plums on the plate and black pepper on the finish. Shiverick Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

**88 Manera Fratelli 2022 Campo Giachino (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Aromas of crushed violets and plums leap out of the glass of this vibrant and energetic Dolcetto. Juicy on the palate, with nose and palate in harmony, and subtle hints of savory herbs on the easy and soft finish. Vintner's Stash. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Montaribaldi 2022 Vagnona (Dolcetto d'Alba).** Sour plums, violets and herbs rise from the glass, defining this cheerful Dolcetto. The palate showcases herbaceous qualities, along with plum skin and dried flowers. Shiverick Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

## NEBBIOLO D'ALBA

**88 Tenuta Rocca 2021 Vigna Sorì Ornati (Nebbiolo d'Alba).** Aromas of cinnamon, clove and other pretty notes emerge. The wine displays firm tannins along with flavors of black tea, spice and earthiness. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$43

**86 Moscone 2020 (Nebbiolo d'Alba).** The wine presents a very pretty nose, with lifted and fresh red-fruit aromas. It offers a lush profile with a touch of creaminess on the palate. Alarich Distributing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**86 Rocca Giovanni 2021 Giaculin (Nebbiolo d'Alba).** Cherry driven and forward, with a touch of herbal notes as it progresses. Dusty tannins on the palate, with a core of dried cherries and underbrush on the palate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**85 Bricco dei Guazzi 2020 (Nebbiolo d'Alba).** Crushed raspberries and wildflowers mingle with clove and spiciness on the nose. Light and easy on the palate, with tart cranberry notes and dusty tannins on the finish. Leone Alato USA. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$41

## LANGHE

**93 Colombo 2021 Pinot Nero (Langhe).** This exciting Pinot Nero from the Langhe shows the penetrating effect of terroir. Aromas of wild cherries lift out of the glass, quickly followed by notes of clove, cinnamon and dried leaves. The elegant, vibrant and almost energetic palate entices you to delve deeper into the wine, as macerated raspberries, dried herbs and floral notes all compound onto one another with earthy dried porcini notes on the elegant finish. Artisanal Cellars. **Hidden Gem.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**92 Tenute Cisa Asinari dei Marchesi di Gresy 2021 Martinenga (Langhe).** As if ready to take

flight, aromas of wild raspberries, rose buds and fresh herbs waft from the glass. Supremely elegant and stylish, the fine Nebbiolo tannins give the wine its stage from which sour cherries and sweet spices dance, lifted by fresh acidity. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**91 Pelissero 2020 Nebbiolo (Langhe).** Very pretty and lifted aromas of macerated berries, savory herbs and incense emerge as the wine opens. Sour red cherries and cranberries shine on the palate, framed by fine tannins and a crunchy, fresh acidity on the finish. There is a touch of orange pithy bitterness on the finish. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**90 Fontanafredda 2022 Ebbio (Langhe).** Aromas of fresh raspberries, rose bud, rooibos tea and wild herbs open the nose of this Nebbiolo. Fresh and forward, with balance between fruits and savory elements giving nuance and complexity. Taub Family Selections. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Icardi 2021 Surisjvan Nebbiolo (Langhe).** Candied cherry, cola, and concentrated floral notes, along with sweet spices, fill the glass of this Nebbiolo. The palate features dried cranberries, medicinal herbs and a chalky minerality as its foundation. Fine tannins and lifted acidity complete the finish. Great overall. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Cascina Chicco 2021 (Langhe).** Pretty aromas of wild rose, cherry and tobacco waft from the glass of this elegant Nebbiolo. Light but with texture and framed by finessed tannins, the palate pops with macerated raspberries dusted with sweet and savory spices. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Tenuta Rocca 2022 Nebbiolo (Langhe).** Macerated raspberries, tea rose, savory spice and wild herbs define this wine. The palate offers tartness with crunchy red-berried fruits, fine tannins, leather and a hint of black tea. Prestige Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**89 Voerzio Martini 2019 Ciabot della Luna (Langhe).** Crushed raspberries and roses define the nose of this pretty Nebbiolo. The palate blends dried herbs, tart cherries and earth tones that finish with elegant and fine tannins. Massanois Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88 Pelissero 2019 Long Now (Langhe).** Inky purple in color, this blend opens with aromas of liqueured cassis, blackberry, oak spice, licorice and tobacco. Full bodied, the wine delivers a punch with macerated black plums, clove, cinnamon and vanilla flavors, all supported by firm oak tannins. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Virna Borgogno 2021 (Langhe).** Cranberry, sour red berries, orange peel and mixed dried flowers define the aromas of this wine. Fine tannins take the spotlight, contributing to the forward fruit flavors. It showcases the characteristics of Nebbiolo. Shiverick Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

## DOGLIANI

**93 Chionetti 2021 Briccolero (Dogliani).** Canned cherry leaps out of the glass, mingling with sweet spices and violet petal aromas. The palate unfolds with mixed red-berry preserves, fruit leather, hints of dried herbs, leaf and chinoa bark. The finish reveals a fresh hummus earthiness, with firm tannins that will benefit from aging. Drink now–2035. Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Chionetti 2021 San Luigi (Dogliani).** Blackberries macerating in thyme and savory spice aromas waft from the glass, followed by subtle floral notes. Damson plums and hints of leather lend depth and elegance to the palate, while balanced tannins lead to a distinct and present earthy finish. Enjoy now to 2035. Vinifera Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 Francesco Versio 2021 (Dogliani).** Oh, if only the world could be as pretty as Dolcetto! This wine opens with aromas of fresh blackberries, macerated cherries, fresh wild herbs and violets dusted in savory spice. The juicy palate pops as if biting into that perfect plum. Balanced by savory and earthy notes on the long and fine finish. Drink now–2035. Artisanal Cellars. *Editors' Choice.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**93 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2021 Vigna Tecc Superiore (Dogliani).** This singular Dolcetto represents the “why” of Dogliani, with defining aromas of macerated black cherries, plums, violets, hibiscus and wild herbs that open this wine. The structured palate has both gravitas and elegance, as the dark fruit core shares the stage with savory and earthy elements, while the fine tannins provide great structure. Drink now–2040. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Poderi Luigi Einaudi 2021 (Dogliani).** A classic Dogliani, this wine opens with aromas of black plum, violet, rose hip and fresh thyme. Macerated blackberries greet the palate, as fine and firm tannins set the foundation of the wine, finishing with savory and earthy notes that make this a great gastronomic wine. Empson USA Ltd. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

## OTHER RED WINES

**93 Tenuta Olim Bauda 2018 (Freisa d'Asti Superiore).** Generous aromas of wild cherries, fresh roses and a mix of fresh herbs all swirl together and pull you deeper into the glass. Anchored by a core of macerated raspberry and cranberry on the palate, the wine shows notes of pepper, dried orange peel and black tea on the long finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$24

**92 Azienda Crus 2020 Mumbèl (Bramaterra).** Elegant aromas of fresh and dried flowers meld with pine-forest notes, medicinal herbs and dried red berries. More assertive on the palate, with reconstituted cherries, savory herbs and spice wrapped by fine and firm tannins, and finishing with forest floor and roasted porcini notes. Drink now–2040 The Piedmont Guy. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Crotin 2020 Aris (Freisa d'Asti).** This wine shines with aromas of fresh raspberries, wild thyme, blue violets and savory spice. The vibrant palate pops with crunchy red-berried fruits that give way to savory and earthy elements on the fine-tuned palate. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**91 Cantine Volpi 2021 Barbera Superiore (Colli Tortonesi).** Plum, boysenberry, blueberry, cinnamon and violets fill the glass. The generous palate showcases wild black-raspberry jam and pepper, finishing with zingy acidity and subtle earthy notes. Allied Beverage Group. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Gaggiano 2020 Leandro (Coste della Sesia).** This wine comes from the hills of the Alto Piemonte and is a blend of Nebbiolo, Vespolina and Croatina. It opens with aromas of ripe cherry, rose-hip, pepper and pine notes, while the elegant palate showcases the nobility of Nebbiolo with fine tannins and energetic acidity. Drink now–2035. Artisanal Cellars. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Cascina Chicco 2019 Valmaggiore Riserva (Roero).** Reserved at first, this Riserva Roero begins to open with dark-hued fruits that are concentrated and supported by notes of licorice root, clove and dried leaf. The palate is firm and well structured, with a noticeable floral quality that melds with the deep dark core of fruit, finishing with stern tannins that need a few years to rest before the wine shows its true self. Drink 2026–2035 Vinifera Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Rizieri 2022 Sori del Ricchino (Dolcetto di Diano d'Alba).** This gem of a Dolcetto comes from a vineyard planted in 1966 and 1978m and has aromas of fresh cherries, purple flowers and white pepper. Round on the palate with red-berried fruit

notes, finishing with subtle earthy notes and fine-grained tannins. DB Wine Selection. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Accornero 2021 Bricco del Bosco (Grignolino del Monferrato Casalese).** Fresh and fruity, this wine opens with aromas of wild strawberries, strawberry tops and a hint of green peppercorn. The juicy palate mimics the nose to perfection, finishing with mouth-watering acidity and an easy-to-drink joyfulness. Golden State Wine Co. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Cantine Povero 2018 Tenuta Laramè Tumlin Loreto (Roero).** Elegant and lifted on the nose, with aromas of wild rose, raspberry and balsam. Supple on the palate with clove, cinnamon and tobacco notes, yielding to a subtle blood-orange note well framed by fine tannins and fresh acidity. Vintage Imports, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**88 Castello di Gabiano 2020 Il Ruvo (Grignolino del Monferrato Casalese).** This wine lifts out of the glass with ease and grace, filling the air with aromas of tart strawberries, cranberry and a hint of dried orange peel, all followed by an intense floral note. Light on the palate, the wine dances with a zippy acidity, keeping that core of red fruits the entire time. Banville Wine Merchants. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Ronco di Sassi 2018 (Diano d'Alba).** Crushed blackberries macerated with sweet and savory spices, along with hints of violets, create an aromatic profile. The lush palate is juicy and somewhat confected, reminiscent of *appassimento*-style wines. It offers richness, sweet spice and soft tannins. For those seeking a change from Amarone, this is worth a try. Votto Vines Importing. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Marengo 2022 Pineto (Brachetto d'Acqui).** Wild fresh raspberries burst out of the glass, with subtle hints of fresh thyme and violets. Crunchy red berries on the palate give a pop; there's a soft fizziness on the finish. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 5.5% **Price:** \$NA

## CENTRAL ITALY WHITE WINES

### VERDICCHIO DI MATELICA

**93 Cantine Provima 2020 Matèrga Riserva (Verdicchio di Matelica).** Aromas of preserved peaches and roasted orange peel mixed with lemon blossom and a hint of honey rise from the glass. The rounded palate maintains the grape's electric acidity but the extra aging gives the wine more texture with notes of grilled pineapple, pressed flowers and a salty finish. Seriously well structured, this wine will age. Drink now–2045 ADL Distributing Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30



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**90 Belisario 2021 Vigneti del Cerro (Verdicchio di Matelica).** Aromas of green apple, radish, lily and crushed rock lift from the glass of this fresh and pure Verdicchio. The palate zigzags between tart apricot and lemon peel and a savory herbal and salty note, finishing with a very mineral finish. Artisan Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Belisario 2021 Cabraccio (Verdicchio di Matelica).** This wine opens with aromas of lemon, green apple, wild herbs and crushed sea shells. The mouth-watering palate is lifted and bright with notes of mixed citrus, tropical fruits and an intense and welcomed salinity. Artisan Wines, Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Cantine Provima 2022 (Verdicchio di Matelica).** Wafting aromas of lemon peel, green apples, fresh flowers and sea breeze rise from the glass of this fresh and verdant wine. Bright and crisp, it is energetic with zesty acidity and flavors of white peach, bitter orange, grass and a salty minerality. ADL Distributing Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**88 Principe Pallavicini 2021 Poggio Verde (Frascati Superiore).** The primarily citrusy nose draws balance from notes of nuts, stone and herbs. That balance continues on the palate, which is fresh, light and summery. Vias Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Il Conte 2022 Villa Prandone Ceppo (Marche).** Refreshing and lively, with mixed citrus, melon and fresh sage. The palate pops with vibrant acidity, fresh green herbs and tart apricot. Orvino Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

## CENTRAL ITALY

### RED WINES

#### MONTEFALCO

**92 Arnaldo Caprai 2019 (Montefalco).** A special wine that shows how balance makes the difference. Each whiff brings intriguing aromas that all work in tandem with notes of black plum, cherry, wild thyme, dried rose and violet with a crushed-rock mineral note that leads into the well-balanced, yet firm palate. Generous mixed-berry fruits on the palate yield to the savory and roasted-earth element on the classy finish. Drink now–2035. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**91 Perticaia 2018 Riserva (Montefalco Rosso).** Blackberry compote meets wild-cherry preserves on the nose of this Montefalco Rosso. Notes of sweet spices and dried rose waft from the glass

as it opens. Lush and giving on the palate, with a more macerated cherry note followed by grilled herbs, cedar and ripe tannins. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**90 Arnaldo Caprai 2020 (Montefalco).** The glass fills as if a bowl of cherries were present with fresh thyme, allspice and roasted coffee. Gripping and well structured, the palate is generous with its plum and other black-hued fruits that turn around a core of savory, herbal and earthy notes, finishing with firm tannins. Drink now–2035. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Cantina Fratelli Pardi 2020 (Montefalco Rosso).** Wild strawberries, crushed cherries, sweet hay and savory herbs define the nose of this wine. The spicy palate leans more savory with tart red berries in the background, with fine tannins. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**87 Tenuta Alzatura 2021 (Montefalco).** Crushed and macerated mixed wild berries with hints of violet and savory herbs waft from the glass. The palate is well structured with tart cherry and savory herbal elements. Volio Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## MONTEFALCO SAGRANTINO

**93 Antonelli 2018 Chiusa di Pannone (Montefalco Sagrantino).** Aromas of black plum and cassis jump from the glass, quickly followed by notes of clove, thyme, black tea and forest floor. The intense and rich palate is driven by flavors of blackberry preserves spiced with pepper, star anise and sweet tobacco, finishing with well-defined tannins. Drink 2027–2050. Omniwines Distribution. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$60

**91 Lorenzo Mattoni 2017 (Montefalco Sagrantino).** This Sagrantino is driven by more earthy aromas and spice with notes of dried leaf, star anise, and dried thyme with dark plum and blackberry. The firm and dense palate has a rich core of black-hued fruits with loads of cinnamon, licorice and a subtle floral note all framed by well-knit tannins. Drink 2026–2045. DMK Incorporated. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Goretti 2019 Le Mura Saracene (Montefalco Sagrantino).** Wafting aromas of fresh cherries, wild herbs, orange zest and dried rose. The gripping palate fills the mouth with macerated red plum and raspberry dusted with savory spice and fresh thyme, finishing with firm and structured tannins. Tricana Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Tabarrini 2018 Colle Alle Macchie (Montefalco Sagrantino).** This brooding Sagrantino opens with aromas of blackberry compote, plums

steeped in baking spices, dried violets and black tea. The well-structured palate is generous with lush macerated blue and black fruits; savory spice, wild herbs and licorice finishing with firm tannins. Drink 2026–2045. Domaine Select Wine & Spirits. —J.P.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$75

**88 Montioni 2019 (Montefalco Sagrantino).** Concentrated aromas of blackberries, wild mint, baking spices and new leather lift from the glass. The wine is firm and dense on the palate with roasted plum, espresso bean, pepper, dried herbs and forest floor on the finish. NG Wine Services. —J.P.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$51

## MARCHE

**88 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2020 Zipolo (Marche).** Inky and dark in color with aromas to match, this wine opens with baked plums in sweet spices, roasted fig and liquored cherries that evolved into sage, tobacco and licorice. Rich and full bodied, the lush fruits balance the firm tannins that give the wine a sturdy frame, finishing with subtle tea-leaf earthiness. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**87 Il Conte 2022 Villa Prandone Donello Sangiovese (Marche).** This ripe and juicy Sangiovese plays to the fruity side of the grape with fresh, dried and macerated cherries all at once. As the wine opens, aromas of sweet and savory spice emerge, as does wild thyme and a hint of dried hay. This highly drinkable wine is ready to go. The palate keeps the cherry theme at its center and finishes with a pop of acidity. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**86 Cantine Provima 2021 Vocàborosso (Marche).** Deep and dense, this Sangiovese and Merlot blend is loaded with dark cherry and plum aromas with baking spices, violets and cedar. The firm and concentrated palate show time in oak, with lush fruit characters at its center and firm tannins on the finish. ADL Distributing Inc. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**86 Il Conte Villa Prandone 2020 Lu Kont (Marche).** Densely concentrated on the nose, this wine opens with aromas of macerated black plums and dried rose with dried wild herbs. Black-cherry preserves and black pepper pop on the firm and well-structured palate, as vibrant acidity keeps the palate fresh on the finish. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

## VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO

**95 Salcheto 2019 Salco (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The nose is smoky, leathery and earthy, but undertones of dark cherries and fennel provide a fresh crackle. That swirl of cherry and herbs leads the way on the palate, but enduring

notes of dirt and leather march into a textured finish of espresso and sambuca. Acid bubbles around chalky, chewy tannins. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**94** **Fanetti - Tenuta S. Agnese 2017 Riserva (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The nose starts in a cooler full of soda, with notes of cherry, vanilla and a lightly medicinal quality, before turning savory with aromas of soil, graphite and leather. On the classic Vino Nobile palate, snarling tannins and acid bring an exhilarating feel to the dance of sweet, spicy and savory. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**94** **Salcheto 2020 (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The nose is defined by a delicate sweetness, as undertones of clove and orange peel bring nuance to leading aromas of vanilla and strawberry, followed by a crack of black pepper. On the palate, fruit leads the way, but a hint of that bitter, spicy element perseveres all the way through the warm, acidic finish. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**92** **Avignonesi 2019 Biologico (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The subtle, layered nose features festive aromas of hibiscus, cranberry, orange slices and pine. The Christmas party kicks into full swing on the palate, with dark chocolate, cloves and pine cones joining the fun, as acid prances around chalky tannins. A promising sign for what's to come from this producer. Avignonesi USA. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Leone d'Oro 2019 Figli d'Italia (Vino Nobile di Montepulciano).** The nose starts earthy and stony, before lighter aromas of roses and cherry blossoms start blooming in the garden. On the palate, a splash of vanilla accentuates that floral element, but nuance comes from an undertone of sweet baking spices, while a thicket of tannins and acid provides structure. Votto Vines Importing. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

## MONTEPULCIANO D'ABRUZZO

**94** **Binomio 2019 Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose blends fruit notes of raspberry and strawberry with savory aromas of fresh grass, wild fennel and cured meat. That meatiness flourishes on the palate, but the fruit lingers to maintain a pleasing tension. Tannins provide structure as the acid finds its footing. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Masciarelli 2018 Villa Gemma Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose begins with a blast of hot tar, but developing aromas of cured meat, soil and cherry candy bring nuance and levity. The sweet cherry streak defines a light, bright, fresh palate, at least until chewy, clinging tannins and

vibrant acid usher in a bitter dark-chocolate finish. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$98

**91** **La Valentina 2019 Belovedere Terre dei Vestini Riserva (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** Initially, the nose is all savory, with notes of hot tar, pencil shavings, soil and oregano, but an developing swirl of plums and baking spices eventually brings a pleasing sweetness. That sweetness swells on the plate, while a dark-chocolate undertone preserves balance through a warm, tannic finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**91** **La Valentina 2019 Spelt (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose starts with a burst of red cherries, but nuance comes as savory, umami notes of balsamic and underbrush eventually emerge, along with a swirl of milk chocolate. That balance between fruit, chocolate and savoriness continues on the palate, which is framed by sturdy, reliable tannins. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**91** **Piandimare 2020 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose starts tart and fresh, with notes of cherries and blackberries, then turns savory with aromas of herbs, earth and leather. The palate leans back into the tartness, before stable tannins guide you into a salt and pepper finish. Brand Italia. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Rosarubra 2019 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose is primarily leathery, meaty and peppery, but undertones of dark fruit and subtle fresh aromas of wet slate and herbs make themselves known. On the dense, almost sweet palate, vanilla underscores the fruit, before a lava flow of tannins and acid wipes out everything in its path. Wine Wine Situation. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$54

**91** **Umani Ronchi 2019 Centovie (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** For full review see page 22. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**90** **Idi di Marzo 2020 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose is savory, but in a warm, comforting way, like a mountain cabin in autumn, with aromas of chocolate, berries, leather, soil and herbs. On the palate, grilled, peppery meat underscores the herbaceousness, but lingering berries bring brightness and levity. Great value, especially considering this wine bears the top sustainable certification. Serendipity Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**90** **Pietrame 2021 Edizione Limitata (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** For full review see page 26. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**90** **Podere Castorani 2019 Amorino (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose is warm,

herbaceous and earthy, but a sour undercurrent of cherries provides sparkle. On the palate, strawberries bring out the sweetness of the cherries, while a latent heat accentuates the herbal element. Grippy tannins and acid pull the spice into the foreground on the finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88** **Cà del Sarto 2022 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The nose balances the tart fruit of sour cherries and wild strawberries with crackling savory elements of fresh earth and new leather. On the palate, the fruit stars, but a pleasurable, powerful undercurrent of chocolate creates a fresh, easy-drinking experience. Enotec Imports, Inc. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**88** **Cantina Zaccagnini 2021 Dal Tralcetto (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The crackling, astringent nose features aromas of cranberries, plums, pepper, herbs and cocoa. On the palate, an emergent current of milk chocolate brings out a sweeter fruit element, but the slightly metallic spice of pepper lingers beside approachable tannins and acid. WinesU. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**88** **Impera 2021 01 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** The deep, dark nose features aromas of dark chocolate, espresso, pepper and asphalt, while undertones of black plums and black cherries provide an astringent balance. The cherries and chocolate star on the palate, but angular yet inviting tannins underscore an enduring, peppery earthiness. Brand Italia. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Le Perle della Campagna 2021 (Montepulciano d'Abruzzo).** This crowd-pleasing wine starts with a balanced nose featuring both sparkling savory notes of fresh earth, leather, tar and pepper and the fruit of cherries and blackberries. On the palate, that invigorating tension continues beneath swirling clouds of chocolate and vanilla. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## OTHER RED WINES

**91** **Il Conte Villa Prandone 2021 Marinus (Rosso Piceno Superiore).** If you love Italian wine, this is for you. A blend of Sangiovese and Montepulciano, it dances between the fresh and bright flavors of Sangiovese and the more concentrated of Montepulciano with cherry, black plum, dried herbs, violets and savory spice. The peppery palate pops with mixed berried fruits, while the firm tannins desire some substantial to pair with. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**91** **Tenuta Pederzana 2021 (Lambrusco Grasp-rossa di Castelvetro).** This Lambrusco opens with aromas of spiced-plum compote, fresh black fig and pepper. The bold and dense palate is loaded

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with black-hued fruit flavors melding seamlessly with savory herbs, spices and earthy notes finishing with a round and soft perlage. Vias Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Il Conte 2021 Villa Prandone Marinus (Rosso Piceno Superiore).** Notes of cedar, tobacco, baking spices and blackberry compote pour from the glass of this rich wine. The concentrated palate is bold with its dark-hued fruits, both preserved and warmed, followed by notes of cocoa, licorice and candied violets on the smooth and lush finish. Orvino Wine Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**88 Barberani 2021 Polago (Umbria).** This Sangiovese-dominant blend, with the support of Montepulciano, leaps out of the glass with lush aromas of cherries and raspberries, with hints of wild thyme and savory spices. The plush wine is juicy, with heaps of mixed berries on the giving and soft palate. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**88 Monte delle Vigne 2018 Nabucco (Emilia).** A blend of 90% Barbera and 10% Merlot, this wine opens with aromas of black cherry, savory spice and oak notes from the French oak barrels used in part of the aging. Vibrant mixed berry fruits combine with dried herbs and pressed purple flowers on the palate, finishing with elegant tannins and enough acidity to keep the wine fresh and lively after each sip. Wine Icons. —J.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**88 Pandolfi 2022 Federico Sangiovese Superiore (Romagna).** In need of that go-to wine? Here you go! This easy and fresh Sangiovese from Romagna (of Emilia-Romagna) pops off the glass with fresh cherries and raspberry notes, hints of fresh herbs and savory spice. The bright palate is light bodied, uncomplicated and exactly what a wine like this is supposed to provide: smiles. Merchants of Thirst. *Best Buy.* —J.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**84 Barberani 2017 Pinot Nero (Umbria).** This wine opens with aromas of mushrooms and roasted cherries. Smoky and earth driven on the palate, with super-fine tannins and a deep umami core. Vinifera Imports. —J.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$120

## TUSCANY WHITE WINES

**96 Petrolo 2021 Bòggina B (Toscana).** Powerfully savory on the nose with toasted sesame, herbs and almost molten-rock aromas that run alongside ethereal citrus blossom and lemon curd, before rolling onto a palate that grips the corner between honeyed fruit and salty earth. A grand tourer that's also track ready—best of all worlds. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$110

**92 Salcheto 2022 Obvius (Toscana).** The nose is inviting and earthy, like a springtime afternoon, then evolves into a salty florality that recalls an evening by the sea. That tension between warmth and coolness continues onto the palate, which is defined by a lingering, citrusy, salty stoniness. Massanois Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Usiglian del Vescovo 2019 MilleEsettantotto (Costa Toscana).** The remarkably savory nose is a summer road trip, with the hot aromas of sun-baked cement, petrol and stone mingling with the town general store's lighter notes of spices and lemons. On the richly textured palate, that almost melancholy waltz between man-made and natural warmth continues, but neither can quite look the other directly in the eye. Offredo Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90 Usiglian del Vescovo 2022 Il Ginestraio (Toscana).** The floral, citrusy nose is defined by a nuanced lemon element, but undertones of herbs and apricot provide depth. That mix continues onto the palate, with a notable salinity emphasizing the herbaceousness on the savory yet buoyant finish. Offredo Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Piccini 2022 Histrio Anfora Organic (Toscana).** The savory nose is primarily earthy, herbal, nutty and stony, but aromas of citrus and tea leaves provide both depth and levity. That eclectic mix sparkles on the palate as well, creating a fresh, yet textured feeling in the mouth. Winesellers, Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

## TUSCANY ROSÉ WINES

**90 Tenuta Cafaggiolo 2021 La Nencia (Toscana).** A sweet, playful nose of watermelon candy, strawberry rhubarb pie and pink lemonade sets up an equally fun palate, which preserves the watermelon and rhubarb notes, but throws in a grapefruit to add some zing. Salinity on the finish brings crackle to an otherwise round texture. Vitavinum Imports LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**89 Il Poggione 2022 Brancato (Toscana).** The nose starts soft and floral, with aromas of bubblegum and budding roses, then turns savory and salty, but maintains its delicacy, like a finely chopped steak tartare. The palate sees a rounder, fuller texture emerge, but that balance between sanguinity and candy continues. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**89 Rocca di Montemassi 2022 Renaissance Rosé (Toscana).** The nose is a sweet, summery mix of cherry tomatoes, wild strawberries and watermelon. The fresh, clean palate leans into the

watermelon, but lingering strawberries and emergent cherries keep you thinking with some deeper fruit notes. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

## TUSCANY RED WINES

**98 Masseto 2021 Massetino (Toscana).** The Masseto 2021 and the Massetino 2020 bring to mind the Duomo of Florence and the dome of St. Peter's Basilica—both magnificent, imposing and equally beautiful. And if the Masseto is more architecturally sophisticated, the Massetino seems to do more with less. The Cabernet Franc works like an ice plunge after a hot sauna, tempering the almost terrifying intensity of the Merlot. A work of art, in any case. Gorgeous now, better in 2031. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$360

**98 Tua Rita 2019 Per Sempre Syrah (Toscana).** For full review see page 3. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$250

**96 Le Macchiole 2020 Scrio (Toscana).** The nose is sleek and dark, like a well-tailored suit, as the chewy saltiness of black olives waltzes with the tartness of blackberries and blueberries, while fireworks of black pepper burst in the night sky above. The olives and dark fruit keep dancing on the palate, until the song ends with a spicy, bitter chocolate crescendo. Debonair tannins watch you from across the ballroom, while acid simmers on the balcony, inconspicuous but unforgettable. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$210

**96 Tenuta Sette Cieli 2018 Scipio (Toscana).** The nose is primarily savory, with notes of balsamic, cured meat and stone, while undertones of raspberries and roses provide a light, floral fruitiness. Berries shine on the palate, which is intense and dynamic from the first drop, as the meatiness also persists to create a confident, self-assured wine. On the finish, a wave of salt crashes over everything, like sunset by the sea. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$128

**95 Argentiera 2018 Ventaglio (Toscana).** The nose is all earth tones and metal, like a blacksmith's shop surrounded by a dark wood, as pepper crackles around aromas of stone and wood, but a hint of strawberry provides some levity. That peppery crackle explodes into fireworks on the palate, while enduring earth and berries bring balance. The acid absolutely sparkles around chewy tannins. Volio Vino. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$440

**95 Castello del Terriccio 2016 Lupicaia (Toscana).** The nose is spicy, sanguine and smoky, but undertones of fresh herbs and sweet



fruit provide balance. On the palate, that balance is inverted as sweet, syrupy strawberries take center stage, before a hot, meaty finish recalls the nose's smoky sanguinity. Solid tannins provide structure without imposing. Benchmark Wine Group. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$150

**95 Tenuta di Biserno 2020 (Toscana).** The nose captures the wistfulness of one last warm autumn day, with aromas of vanilla and berries floating above an herbal, woody earthiness. On the palate, the berries and herbs swirl together into a mocha finish, but contoured tannins and notable acid balance the fruit. Kobrand. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**95 Tenuta di Trinoro 2020 (Toscana).** On the nose, rich, sweet aromas of cherries and figs draw balance from sharper undertones of graphite, fennel, orange peel and clove. A smear of marmalade across the palate underscores the fruitiness, which stays bright and juicy through the finish, but a dark chocolate undertone provides gravitas. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$400

**94 Le Forconate 2018 Nove Legni (Toscana).** The nose is a snarl of blackberry bushes growing haphazardly through a field of rocks, while a gust of wind carries notes of pepper and spices. That balance of berries and peppery earthiness continues on the savory, sanguine palate until a bitter cocoa finish, which is structured by refined yet forceful tannins. Pazzione Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**94 Petrolo 2021 Torrone (Toscana).** The nose is like a cool, damp forest, with dark berries, fresh earth, but with a quiet rumbling of heat and savory undertones, and the palate maintains the balancing act between cool and warm, sweet and savory, buoyant but indulgent. Valdarno delivers at every price point, but this is a particularly stellar deal. Vintus LLC. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$42

**93 Castello di Bossi 2020 Girolamo (Toscana).** The nose is sanguine and metallic, with notes of soil and pepper, but a brisk blast of blueberries and cherries provides balance. That fruit leads off the palate, before a current of dark chocolate washes out into a resurgently peppery finish. Acid bounces around rigid, angular tannins. Winebow Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 Tenuta San Vito 2020 Colle dei Mandorli Merlot (Toscana).** On the nose, a fresh blueberry pie cools by the window, as floral and earthy aromas waft in from the garden. The palate brews a cup of coffee to go with the pie, while a streak of salt and pepper underscores the nose's earthiness. Tannins and acid are harmonious. Good Earth Wines. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**93 Tenuta Sette Ponti 2020 Crognolo (Toscana).** Black cherries, blackberries, earth,

dark chocolate and a hint of orange peel and anise on the nose open onto a lush and indulgent palate, but with pepper and an almost bracing fresh mint-iness at the back that creates balance and tension. Tannins are round but dense and chewy—very satisfying. Kobrand. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$46

**93 Tolaini 2020 Valdisanti (Toscana).** An undertone of Bing cherries provides pop on an otherwise earthy, metallic nose. Orange zest brings out the cherries' subtle sourness on the palate, while strong acid and heat keep things lively until a structured, tannic finish. Banville Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Uggiano 2019 Falconeri Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** The nose is your grandmother's coffee-table spread, where bowls of tart berries and cherry candy surround a vase of violets, and stony, earthy aromas drift in from her garden. The berries sweeten on the palate, but dark chocolate, sticky tannins and an enduring salty stoniness keep the fruit in check. Solo Vino. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Campo alle Comete 2021 Oltresogno Cabernet Sauvignon (Toscana).** The nose mixes baking aromas of vanilla, spices, berries and cherries with a lurking, sharp sanguinity. On the palate, that balance continues, with black cherries bringing the fruit and a woody earthiness providing balance. Structure comes from dense tannins and substantial acid. Vias Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Fattoria Uccelliera 2016 7 Dieci Syrah (Toscana).** The nose is primarily dry and dusty, with notes of cocoa powder, old leather and pepper, but the succulent fruitiness of blackberry jam and a medicinal streak of eucalyptus provide a boost of energy. On the cohesive palate, the pepper blazes around a continued dark fruitiness, before a potentially eucalyptus finish cools things off. Franco Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**89 Uggiano 2019 Syra (Toscana).** The fruit-forward nose is headlined by notes of plums and raspberries, but a medley of peppercorns provides a delightfully spicy sparkle. On the palate, the fruit becomes sweeter and more syrupy, before clingy tannins and a still-burning heat usher in a bitter, tobacco leaf finish. Solo Vino. *Best Buy.* —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

## BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO

**96 Sesti 2017 Phenomena Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** An exhilarating nose starts with a slap of blood and earth, like a spooky autumn evening, before lightening into the wild, herbal aroma of a diviner's tea. On the palate, a kaleidoscope of flavor explodes in the night sky, with

stars of cherry, bitter orange, soil, licorice and the enduring warm, light sweetness of tea leaves. Finely grained, captivating tannins create a feeling of uncanny weightlessness. Kermit Lynch Wine Merchant. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**95 Canalicchio di Sopra 2018 Vigna Montosoli (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is primarily earthy and herbaceous, but doesn't lack for brightness, thanks to pops of bitter citrus and red-plum skin. Those astringent fruit pops become thunderclaps on the palate, with cherries providing a welcome juiciness that is balanced by taut tannins and lightning bolts of acid. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$189

**95 Caparzo 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** For full review see page 4. Vineyard Brands.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$80

**95 La Fornace 2018 Origini (Brunello di Montalcino).** The deep, savory nose features notes of hot tar, coffee, wood and cloves, but assertive undertones of cherries and fresh herbs provide levity. On the incredibly solar palate, the cherries are boosted by a citrusy burst of fresh orange slices, before a hot, peppery finish recalls the nose's savory elements. Acrobatic acid slinks through a forest of dense, firm tannins. Vignaioli Selection. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**95 Pietroso 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The almost impossibly fresh nose drops you right onto a cliff's jagged edge, where sprouts of mint and fennel fight their way through cracks in the stone, before friendlier aromas of cherry, spices and earth eventually emerge. That spicy fruit livens up the palate, which features notes of strawberry, plum, orange peel, cloves and licorice, while polished, lithe tannins swing from a trapeze above it all. North Berkeley Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

**95 SassodiSole 2018 Sasso di Luna (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is deep and lush, with sweet yet nuanced aromas of black cherries and dark chocolate, and savory notes of tobacco, soil and espresso. On the palate, a smear of raspberry jam emphasizes the fruit, but that astringent earthiness lingers before giving way to a warm mocha finish. Acid swirls around tannins that are coiled and ready to strike. Mexcor Fine Wines Division. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**95 Val di Suga 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is a well-stocked kitchen, with coffee always ready, a decadent spice drawer and expensive balsamic, and the aromas of cherries and soil wafting in from the garden. On the palate, notes of vanilla and candied orange underscore the cherries' juicy sweetness, while the savory notes linger as undertones, before lithe tannins and hot acid usher in a long finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$79

**95 Val di Suga 2018 Vigna del Lago (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose blends the adventurous aromas of leather, stone and coffee with lighter notes of vanilla, cherries and bitter orange peel. On the palate, a current of blood orange bolsters the cherry element, while the vanilla sweetness pushes back against a swelling bitter undertone. Taut tannins march into a warm finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$179

**94 Canalicchio di Sopra 2018 Vigna La Casaccia (Brunello di Montalcino).** A powerfully savory nose of grilled meat, herbs and saffron sees nuance emerge with undertones of sweet brown butter, sour cherries and pomegranates. On the palate, those sour fruits are pampered by a sprinkling of orange zest, but smooth tannins and lean, muscular acid preserve the sanguine element. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$189

**94 Capanna 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** A classic Brunello nose features aromas of cherry, orange peel, soil and graphite, along with a fresh burst of fennel and mint. The cherries, soil and bitter orange notes define the palate, but a sprinkling of anise brings subtle, pleasing spice. Acid flows over round, smooth tannins like a river polishing stones. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

**94 Caparzo 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose brings both fruit and warmth, as aromas of strawberries, cherries and hibiscus flirt with notes of dark chocolate, orange peel and stones basking in the sun. On the palate, a wave of cranberries brings astringency that freshens a persistent streak of stoniness, before the chocolate returns for the finish. The firm, imposing tannins creep up slowly, maintaining depth without weight. Vineyard Brands. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$45

**94 Caparzo 2018 Vigna La Casa (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose features floral aromas of roses, pomegranates, cherries and oranges, along with fresh undertones of soil and graphite. On the palate, the fruit sweetens, before a warm, spicy finish. Refined tannins create a silky, sensuous mouthfeel. Vineyard Brands. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

**94 La Fornace 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** For full review see page 8. Vignaioli Selection.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

**94 La Fornace 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts deep and earthy, with notes of old leather, cloves and black olives, but a vanilla undertone sets up developing aromas of cherries and oranges. The vanilla and cherries carry the palate above a persistent current of umami. Acid bounces around grippy, powerful tannins. Vignaioli Selection. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$110

**94 La Lecciaia 2018 Vigna Manapetra (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is a resplendent living room, where the aromas wafting from a spread of cherries, figs and blackberries mingle with the smell of old leather radiating from the bookshelves. Bitter, coffee and orange undertones endure on the palate, where they keep a strong cherry current in check until dusty tannins and vibrant acid are ready for a warm finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$55

**94 Mocali 2018 Le Raunate (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts sanguine and metallic, with aromas of meat, soil and graphite, then turns succulent with notes of black cherries and blackberries, all beneath a dusting of bitter cocoa. The fruit blossoms on the palate, but a spicy, acidic undercurrent bolsters the astringent, metallic, earthy backbone. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$70

**94 San Lorenzo 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** On the nose, a sweet swirl of vanilla, strawberries and spices is balanced by savory notes of balsamic, paper and pencils. The palate leans into the savory, as emergent earthy and metallic notes bring heat and freshness, which are emphasized by polished tannins, while a lingering berry undertone preserves balance. Giuliana Imports. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$70

**94 San Polo 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** For full review see page 9. Trincherio Family Estates. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

**94 San Polo 2018 Podernovi (Brunello di Montalcino).** For full review see page 9. Trincherio Family Estates.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

**94 San Polo 2018 Vignavecchia (Brunello di Montalcino).** For full review see page 9. Trincherio Family Estates.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

**94 SassodiSole 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts sweet, with aromas of cherry and orange peel, before turning umami with notes of soil, mushrooms, herbs and balsamic, while a latent spiciness lurks. On the palate, the cherry and orange elements return, before confident tannins and acid bring that savory warmth back for the finish. Mexcor Fine Wines Division. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$80

**94 Val di Suga 2018 Poggio al Granchio (Brunello di Montalcino).** The savory nose features aromas of hot tar, soil, carpaccio and lead, with a fruit undertone of cherries and plums providing balance. The palate leans into those sweeter, juicier elements, while acid fizzes around polished, yet grippy tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$179

**93 Canalicchio di Sopra 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** An intensely savory, umami nose of hot tar, oregano and espresso draws balance from succulent undertones of brown butter and stewed plums. On the palate, blackberries underscore the plum element, but a curl of orange peel and persistent tar and herbs preserve the savory backbone of the wine. Tannins are round and smooth. Vinifera Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$106

**93 Capanna 2017 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is a basket full of freshly picked dark berries, but with sanguine undertones of iron and mint, like the foreboding forest at the edge of the meadow. The palate begins with bright, red berries joining the fun, before the earthy savoriness is resurrected by chewy, chalky tannins. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 15%

Price: \$145

**93 Cava d'Onice 2018 Colombaio (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is an abandoned campsite deep in the forest, where the faint aromas of smoke and meat from the previous night's dinner mingle with the natural odors of earth, herbs, stones and rich berries. On the palate, that fruit note billows in a strong breeze of mint and pepper, which blows straight through the finish, where dense, structured tannins flex to keep a potent, acidic heat in check. Lipman Bros. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$115

**93 Mocali 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts earthy, vegetal and slightly smoky, then pivots to aromas of strawberry and cherry, while subtle notes of vanilla and dill remind you of this wine's time aging in oak. The palate continues balancing fruit and earth, before aggressive tannins and acid emphasize the fruit on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$55

**93 Patrizia Cencioni 2017 123 Riserva (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is deeply savory and peppery, but a smudge of plum compote provides balance. The palate starts with fruit leaping out at you, before that initial pizzazz gives way to the herbaceous, meaty notes once more. Tannins are satiny and polished, but substantial. North Berkeley Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$120

**93 Pinino 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose greets you with aromas of raspberry, cherry and strawberry, but notes of fresh soil, flint and meatiness soon emerge from the hallway to say hello, too. On the vibrant, astringent palate, a current of blood orange bolsters the berry element, while an enduring earthiness and lithe tannins maintain balance. A hot, acidic finish accentuates the lively fruits. Tri-Vin Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$50

**93 Villa al Cortile 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose balances sweet aromas of cherry candy and sugar plums with savory notes of fresh

soil, herbs and spices. The palate runs with the syrupy cherry element, but an emergent undercurrent of bitter orange preserves a latent, earthy astringency. Acid parties around straight-laced tannins. 8 Vini, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**92 Belpoggio 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose starts fruity, with fresh cherries and wild strawberries, but a leathery, spicy savoriness emerges over time. On the palate, the spice bounces around a citrus note that underscores a deeper red fruitiness, until imposing tannins put up the velvet ropes and usher in a dark chocolate richness. Misa Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Corte Pavone 2018 Campo Marzio (Brunello di Montalcino).** The nose is a village bakery, where the classic aromas of cherry, orange, coffee and mocha mingle with the scents of old leather and tar that are omnipresent in an old building. The palate is defined by that same baked fruitiness, but a sprinkle of salt and pepper brings some heat, which glides through firm yet flexible tannins. AP Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**91 Corte Pavone 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** A savory, sanguine nose ties together earth, crisp new leather and spicy cloves with a warm, yet fresh herbaceousness, as notes of cherry and orange sparkle above it all. That fruity sparkle becomes a blaze on the palate, but enduring herbs and emergent dark chocolate provide an anchor, while acid pops around firm, structuring tannins. AP Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**90 Geografico 2018 (Brunello di Montalcino).** The balanced nose recalls your grandmother's kitchen, as savory aromas of fresh coffee and cloves waltz with floral notes of roses and dried cranberries. On the palate, strawberries and clementines bolster that florality, while acid slithers through slippery tannins. USA Wine Imports. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

## BOLGHERI

**94 Caccia al Piano 1868 2020 (Bolgheri Superiore).** Deeply sanguine on the nose, with buried earth, cracked black pepper, graphite and brooding black fruit, before more blackberries, earth, herbs, crushed stones, pepper and dark chocolate appear on the palate. Tannins are refined, and textural, and acid and heat simmer through long warm finish. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$120

**93 Argentiera 2020 Villa Donoratico (Bolgheri).** Sanguine, earthy and metallic on the nose, with stones, gunpowder, black plums, blackberries and then a riot of herbs. Chocolate and more berries appears on the palate on top of heat and earth.

Mouth filling and rich, but not overly lush thanks to tannins that form a tight but flexible net around everything. Volio Vino. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93 San Felice 2019 Bell'Aja (Bolgheri Superiore).** A nose that balances evolved, intense fruit with a rare saline freshness—cool and salty but still rich with black cherries, boysenberries, dark chocolate and espresso. The palate is sophisticated but indulgently dessert-like, with a bitter chocolate and coffee ice cream finish. Fine grained but powerful tannins. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$70

**92 Ceralti 2020 Alfeo (Bolgheri Superiore).** Fresh earth and both capsicum and peppercorns on the nose at first, then mixed dark fruit, from black plums to black cherries to blackberries. The palate continues to walk the line between peppery and dense with berries, and substantial but still approachable tannins lend a polished contour. HB Wine Merchants. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92 San Felice 2020 Bell'Aja (Bolgheri Superiore).** Recognizably Bolgheri with its saline and fresh but also dark-fruit rich nose, the palate of the Bell'Aja 2020 continues to delight with Luxardo cherries, boysenberry jam and bitter and sweet dark chocolate. Substantial tannins will resolve nicely with the fruit over time. Total Beverage Solution. —D.C.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$70

## MAREMMA TOSCANA

**94 Agricola Querciabella 2021 Mongrana (Maremma Toscana).** The nose is springtime in the English countryside, with fruit and flowers wafting over the aroma of cobblestones after a heavy rain. That mix of floral freshness and damp saltiness lingers onto the palate, while the tannins look on, before acid blows through like a strong wind. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Mazzei 2019 Belguardo Tirrenico (Maremma Toscana).** The nose is a warm and inviting summer forest, with aromas of herbs and berries tempering deeper scents of earth, mushrooms and stone. On the palate, that fresh, ripe fruitiness leads into a bright, salty, minty finish. Tannins are smooth and polished. Demeine Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**92 Rocca di Montemassi 2017 (Maremma Toscana).** A primarily meaty, smoky, spicy nose draws balance from the syrup of black cherries. On the palate, vanilla underscores that dense fruit, while polished yet punchy tannins ensure the nose's peppery, smoky spiciness endures. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Rocca di Montemassi 2019 (Maremma Toscana).** The nose is a mix of fruit and spice with a lightly medicinal quality, with dark-chocolate undertones providing depth. The fruit and chocolate both linger onto the palate, creating a pleasing mocha flavor, while the tannins act as bouncers and set up a clean boundary around the fruit. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Rocca di Montemassi 2020 Le Focai (Maremma Toscana).** A sanguine, gamy nose draws balance from a drizzle of pomegranate syrup over aromas of soil, vegetation, pepper and a light woodiness. On the palate, black cherries underscore the pomegranate note, while a medicinal undertone, along with blazing tannins and acid, keep the fruit in check. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Tenuta Aquilaia 2021 (Maremma Toscana).** The nose is like a comforting morning routine, as aromas of tobacco and black coffee mingle with the warmer scent of potting soil wafting in from the garden. Bold fruit defines the palate, but salt and pepper, bolstering tannins and a hot finish underscore a lingering earthiness. DiVino International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER RED WINE

**91 Marchesi Gondi 2018 Mazzaferrata (Colli della Toscana Centrale).** The delightfully spicy, playful nose features a blaze of pepper and jalapeño, with undertones of blackberries and a light woodiness providing levity. On the lush, indulgent palate, the berries take a stronger stand against the spice, but that metallic pepperiness continues to shine. De Negoce. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

## SOUTHERN ITALY

### WHITE WINES

#### GRECO DI TUFO

**95 Mastroberardino 2019 Stiléma Riserva (Greco di Tufo).** The nose is a teenager's exhilaration on a summer night out, as the innocent aromas of vanilla, lemon and toasted nuts are left behind in favor of cigarette smoke, leather jackets and hot pavement. On the palate, however, childhood refuses to be left behind entirely, as afternoon snacks of apples and almonds lead into a finish that's deep and toasty, like the feeling of falling asleep in the car and knowing your parents will carry you in. At first blush, could pass for Burgundy. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$68

**94 Di Meo 2008 Vittorio Riserva (Greco di Tufo).** The textured nose starts with a heady



# BUYINGGUIDE

excitement that evolves into floral notes that continue onto the palate, where they are joined by a salty stoniness. That kaleidoscope of flowers, salt and stone eventually bursts, unveiling a land of nuts and honey for the finish. Persistent acid and heat showcase this older wine's enduring vibrancy. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$107

**92 Mastroberardino 2022 Nova Serra (Greco di Tufo).** A very savory nose of crisp leather and mixed spices and herbs draws levity from undertones of dandelion and lemon. That citrus stream becomes a river on the palate, but a lingering, slightly spicy earthiness keeps you on your toes until a sweet, iced-tea finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**91 Di Meo 2022 Salza Irpina (Greco di Tufo).** Apple notes define a fresh, citrusy nose, while a smudge of clean, new rubber provides some complexity. The citrus turns drier and slightly bitter on the palate, but explosive acid keeps things lively until a balanced finish that is both sweet and salty. Leone Alato USA. —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$32

**91 Villa Matilde 2021 Tenuta di Altavilla (Greco di Tufo).** The nose is delicate, but doesn't lack subtlety, as the freshness of citrus blossoms and grapefruit mingles with drier aromas of tea leaves and cumin. That balance continues on the palate, where green apples play with camomile, while accelerating acid recalls the citrus of the nose. Kobrand. —D.C.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINE

**90 Caputo 2022 Enodelta (Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio).** The nose is fresh, citrusy and salty, with a sharper streak of mint keeping everyone honest. Citrus dominates the palate, as the saline freshness matures into a rounder, richer mouthfeel, like moving from the shallows out to open ocean. Shiverick Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$18

## SOUTHERN ITALY ROSÉ WINES

### SALENTO

**91 Tormaresca 2022 Furia di Calafuria (Salento).** The warm, fresh, salty and grapefruit-forward nose is like a Greyhound with a salty rim on a summer day by the pool. The palate runs with that fantastic blend of salt and citrus, while wild strawberries and cherries add juiciness, and a sandy element recalls an ocean sunset to create a sense of wistfulness on the citrusy finish. Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Masseria Altemura 2022 Zinzula Rosé (Salento).** The nose is floral yet savory, with notes of hibiscus, grapefruit, pennies and salt, while a strawberry undertone fights for the right to be sweet. The juicier palate acknowledges the strawberry's cause, but an enduring current of grapefruit gives a salty edge to an otherwise full, supple wine. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$24

**88 Azienda Agricola Rocca 2022 Podere don Cataldo Negroamaro (Salento).** The nose is a fun garden full of cherry tomatoes, little strawberries and oregano, with an undercurrent of sour cherry providing some crackle. On the sweet, juicy palate, a more potent strawberry element brings out the cherries' sweetness, while a latent salinity keeps things from getting too rich. Lanval Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$12

## SOUTHERN ITALY RED WINES

### AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE

**94 Elena Fucci 2018 Titolo Riserva (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore).** On the nose, deep fruit notes of dried figs, plums and mulberries both accentuate and push back on dominant aromas of grilled meat and pepper. The fruit brightens on the palate, but an enduring earthy spiciness maintains depth, while strong yet polished tannins glide into an unexpectedly fresh, saline finish. Volio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$131

**93 Elena Fucci 2021 Titolo by Amphora (Aglianico del Vulture).** A spicy, sanguine nose features notes of pepper, metal and olives, but violet and black-cherry undertones provide levity. The palate leans into the sanguine, meaty notes of earth and fire, while the fruit also turns darker and deeper, before ultimately plunging into a dark-chocolate finish, which is structured by polished yet firm tannins. Volio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$92

**92 Elena Fucci 2021 Titolo (Aglianico del Vulture).** The nose is primarily savory, with aromas of balsamic, mushrooms, earth and stone, but medicinal undertones and a drizzle of black-cherry syrup provide nuance. The palate also skews savory at first, but lingering notes of cherry and herbs eventually take center stage. Aggressive acid hurls spicy punches at the dusty tannins. Volio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$58

**92 Elena Fucci 2019 Titolo (Aglianico del Vulture Superiore).** On the nose, smoky, sanguine notes of graphite and cured meat are balanced by the fruitiness of cherries and red plums. The fruit notes headline the palate, but an undertone of chili jam leads into a resurgently meaty finish, while

acid bounces around contoured tannins. Volio Imports. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$53

**92 Vigneti del Vulture 2019 Piano Del Cerro (Aglianico del Vulture).** The nose is warm with fruit, as undertones of old leather and wet bricks both underscore and balance the leading aromas of dried figs, plums and hibiscus. On the palate, a bed of rose petals lightens that fruit depth, but taut tannins and hot acid bring yet more complexity. Empson USA Ltd. —D.C.

abv: 14%

Price: \$NA

## SICILY WHITE WINES

**94 Planeta 2022 Allemanda (Noto).** The nose is the end of a picnic on the beach, as the smell of low tide starts to overpower the sweetness of fruit salad and the vegetal aroma of sea grass. On the palate, that salty blast emphasizes the savory, sophisticated qualities of the fruit and a mix of spices, before the sleekness of almond skin emerges for a gliding finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

abv: 12%

Price: \$26

**92 Principi di Butera 2022 Carizza Insolia (Sicilia).** The nose is a decadent slice of lemon meringue pie with a garnish of jasmine and mint, while on the palate, a more powerful herbaceousness and an undertone of wet stone freshen up an enduring citrus heart, before sizzling acid sets up a salty finish. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$20

**91 Planeta 2022 La Segreta Il Bianco (Sicilia).** The citrus, seashells and salt on the nose take you to Sicily but then a delightfully unexpected combination of nutty and grassy aromas open up the panorama. The palate continues to deliver depth and texture even as it remains light and friendly. Exactly what you want from a pop and pour—the Platonic ideal of an everyday white. Taub Family Selections. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

**90 Baglio di Pianetto 2022 Insolia Made With Organic Grapes (Sicilia).** The nose is fresh, citrusy and floral, with powerful aromas of apples, but a rubbery undertone provides balance. A blast of salt on the palate accentuates enduring notes of citrus and apple, but an evolving current of wild herbs eventually leads to an acidic, more astringently citrusy finish. Opici Wines. *Best Buy.* —D.C.

abv: 13%

Price: \$15

**90 Caruso & Minini 2022 Arancino Orange Biological (Terre Siciliane).** While orange wine gets its name from skin contact that gives it the color rather than the flavor, it happens that the Caruso & Minini is vibrantly citrusy on the nose at first, and then offers aromas of white flowers, white tea, yellow apple, melon and unsulphured apricots.

The citrus blossom note is high toned and delicate, balanced by a toothsome quality from tannins. An ideal introduction to this style. Massanois Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Cusumano 2022 Insolia (Terre Siciliane).** A primarily savory nose of rubber, stone, pepper and oregano, draws balance from undertones of daffodils and citrus. That lemony current becomes a flood on the palate, but an enduring stony herbaceousness provides structure, before a tart, salty finish ties everything together. Terlato Wines International. —D.C.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

## MARSALA

**90 Florio 2017 Vecchioflorio Superiore Dry (Marsala).** The dark copper color is fitting for a fresh, metallic nose of pennies and wet stone, although undertones of honey, white tea and orange peel provide balance. The palate leans fruity, as apricot swells before eventually breaking against a nutty finish that recalls the honey of the nose. Volio Imports. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 18% **Price:** \$17

**89 Lombardo NV Marsala Vergine Riserva del Centenaria (Marsala).** Sediment is visible in the glass even through a dark-copper hue, while the nose, in contrast, captures the lightness of citrus, herbs, honey and apple. Those notes continue onto the palate, but finally give way at the finish to a deeply savory salinity. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —D.C.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$25

**87 Lombardo NV Marsala Fine I.P. Ambra Dry (Marsala).** A deep, chocolate-brown color foreshadows a deep nose of dates, walnuts, figs and yes, chocolate, with a touch of orange peel providing balance. The palate turns earthier, but the fig and chocolate notes linger until a black licorice wave crashes over the finish. Shaw-Ross International Importers. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 17% **Price:** \$10

## SICILY AND SARDINIA RED WINES

**94 Tasca d'Almerita 2019 Tenuta Regaleali Vigna San Francesco Cabernet Sauvignon (Sicilia).** For full review see page 9. Trincherio Family Estates.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**92 Zisola 2020 Achilles (Sicilia).** The nose is a summer barbeque, as hot, slightly acrid aromas of smoke, tar and meat play with lighter blackberry, violet and mint undertones. On the palate, the balance between meatiness and berry sweetness continues, while imposing tannins and searing acid

keep everyone in check until a swirling mocha finish. Demeine Estates. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 MandraRossa 2021 Frappato (Terre Siciliane).** The nose starts lightly floral, with aromas of strawberry and hibiscus, but quickly dives into the earthy sanguinity of soil and bricks. The slightly astringent fruit flavors continue on the palate, while a vegetal undertone accentuates the earth tones before a salty, acidic, hot finish. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Alessandro di Camporeale 2020 Kaid Syrah (Sicilia).** A deep, savory nose sees a peppery streak accentuate a meaty core, while aromas of balsamic, stone, graphite and plums provide some freshness and astringency. Tart fruitiness carries the palate, but that peppery meatiness lingers in the background. Acid bounces around polished tannins. Panebianco. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Baglio di Pianetto 2021 Frappato Made With Organic Grapes (Sicilia).** The nose is headlined by wild strawberries, but savory notes of soil, old leather and spices provide balance. On the palate, cherry tomatoes underscore the fruitiness, while a sprinkle of salt and pepper accentuates the heat. A refreshing breeze of acid gusts through structured tannins. Opici Wines. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 MandraRossa 2022 Frappato (Sicilia).** The nose features a nuanced florality, with both astringency and fruitiness, while a hint of tobacco leaf brings further depth. On the light, breezy palate, berries and cherries party, but don't completely overwhelm lingering undertones of flowers and earth. Palm Bay International. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**89 Principi di Butera 2021 Butirah Syrah (Sicilia).** The nose is defined by the playfulness of blueberries, vanilla and coconut, while lightly savory undertones of cedar and vegetation provide balance. That blueberry sweetness headlines the palate as well, but structured tannins and popping acid create a metallic crackle of pepper. 1821 Fine Wines & Spirits. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Tenuta Rapitalà 2021 Nadir Syrah (Sicilia).** The nose features notes of blueberries and violets, while the spice of black pepper and the freshness of fennel bring nuance. On the palate, the berries and pepper swirl together, before medicinal licorice and dusty dark chocolate lead into a tannic, acidic finish. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

## ETNA

**94 Benanti 2017 Rovittello Particella No.341 (Etna).** The nose balances tart cherries and cranberries with savory undertones of pencil lead, herbs and medicinal licorice, before the palate leans into sweeter fruit, without losing that medicinal quality. Contoured tannins and lively acid accentuate a latent, earthy smokiness. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$128

**94 Benanti 2017 Serra della Contessa Particella No.587 (Etna).** The nose effortlessly blends savory aromas of soil, clean wood and salt with the semisweet astringency of hibiscus, rose petals and wild strawberries. On the palate, raspberries briefly bolster the strawberry, before a powerful earthiness takes over. Acid brings a glint of spice as it sparks off polished, smooth tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$128

**94 Tenute Bosco 2016 Vico Prephyloxera Rosso (Etna).** The sanguine, warm nose is undergirded by notes of brick and soil, but fresher aromas of cherries, bergamot and fennel provide balance. The interplay between cherry-red liveliness and dusty, metallic earthiness continues on the palate, until dense tannins march you into a salty, acidic finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**93 Tenute Bosco 2019 Piano Dei Daini Rosso (Etna).** The adventurous, leather-clad nose wanders from the woods to a field of wild herbs, cherries and strawberries, while the palate continues onwards to the salty rocks of a sea cliff, but doesn't forget the earth and fruit of the nose's travels. Refined tannins and firm acid bask in the glow of a saline finish. Enotec Imports, Inc. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$43

**92 Benanti 2021 (Etna).** An earthy, savory nose recalls the volcanic soil of Etna's slopes, while the astringency of cranberries, hibiscus, cherries and fennel provide the sparkle of the Italian sun glinting off the snow. The cherries dance on the palate, but a bitter citrus undertone highlights enduring notes of earth and herbs. Acid buzzes around dusty, chewy tannins. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —D.C.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**91 Ciclopi 2021 Rosso (Etna).** The nose starts with a blend of astringent fruitiness and light florality, but both eventually succumb to a deep, fungal earthiness. That interplay between bright fruit and earthy depth continues on the palate, while the acid almost vibrates with energy, balancing the taut tannins. Vera Wine & Spirits. —D.C.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 MandraRossa 2019 Sentiero delle Gerle (Etna).** A smoky, earthy, warm nose gets some crackle from a flash of salt and pepper and a slowly emerging note of barely ripe cherries. The

fresh, astringent fruit component is accentuated by sweeter strawberries on the palate, at least until a refreshing, salty finish of mint chocolate. Palm Bay International. —D.C.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## CANNONAU DI SARDEGNA

**91 Nuraghe Crabioni 2021 Crabioni (Cannonau di Sardegna).** A sharp, fresh nose features astringent fruit, new pencils, clean earth and a refined florality that more than holds its own, then blossoms fully on the palate, while the earthiness and fruit linger as undertones. Sticky, chewy tannins smooth out a bitter dark-chocolate finish. Vias Imports. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**91 Sella & Mosca 2020 Riserva (Cannonau di Sardegna).** The nose begins bright and light, with aromas of cranberry and hibiscus, then turns darker and richer with plums, tobacco and a swirl of chocolate and vanilla. Figs and a potent florality underscore the plum note on the palate, before the chocolate current swells into a tidal wave on the finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**90 Pedres 2021 Cerasio Cannonau (Cannonau di Sardegna).** The nose is a mix of cherries and berries, while undertones of tree bark, earth and tobacco leaf provide balance. Rich fruit also defines the palate, until buoyant acid and tough yet flexible tannins lift a rich, chocolatey finish. Bacchanal Wine Imports. —D.C.

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

**90 Surrau 2021 Naracu (Cannonau di Sardegna).** The nose is tart and fruity, with notes of cranberries, red plums, orange peel and raspberries, while undertones of graphite and brick provide a stony, dusty balance. Astringent fruit carries the palate too, until acid ignites a pile of firm tannins, creating a blazing, bitter cocoa finish. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

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

**90 Surrau 2021 Sincaru (Cannonau di Sardegna).** A sanguine, savory nose is headlined by notes of grilled meat, leather and soil, but the gentle astringency of plums, cherries and orange peel provide levity. Fruit carries the palate, but a savory streak of earth and metal lingers as an undertone, until an acidic, bitter, citrusy finish washes everything else away. Dalla Terra Winery Direct. —D.C.

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

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Donnafugata 2020 Floramundi (Cerasuolo di Vittoria).** The light, gentle nose features aromas of roses, cherries, strawberries, clean wood, soil and mixed herbs. On the palate, the fruit reigns, but deeper, sanguine undertones of earth and metal

are strengthened by dusty tannins and vibrant acid. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —D.C.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**91 Sella & Mosca 2019 Marchese di Villamarina Riserva (Alghero).** The woody nose features both fruit and earth, with notes of berries, pomegranate, moss, bark and damp fallen leaves. That balance continues onto the palate, where smooth, pliable tannins lead into a salty, mineral finish. Taub Family Selections. —D.C.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$62

**91 Valle dell'Acate 2019 Classico (Cerasuolo di Vittoria Classico).** The nose is carried by a light woodiness, but the tartness of plum and apple skin, sweetness of raspberries and spice of peppercorn provide fascinating nuance. The berries headline the palate, but a lingering astringency provides balance and leads into a dark-chocolate finish, which is structured by tannins and lifted by buoyant acid. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —D.C.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$29

## ITALY SPARKLING WINES

**90 Le Vigne di Alice NV Osé Nature Brut Rosé (Vino Spumante).** Strawberry and watermelon flavors create a tart and light profile, complemented by a crunchy acidity. The light palate shows hints of jasmine tea, white flowers and cranberry. PortoVino Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Fantinel 2021 Millesimato One & Only Rosé Brut (Italy).** Light and delicate aromas of white strawberry, peach, and floral notes greet the senses. The wine is easy to enjoy, with hints of Mandarin orange rind adding a tart touch to the bright and fresh finish. Volio Imports. —J.P.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$21

**88 Velenosi NV Passerini Brut (Vino Spumante).** The nose is fresh and lifted, showcasing notes of apples and candied lemon. White flowers and citrusy hints add to its joyous ease, while vibrant acidity lifts the palate. Vias Imports. —J.P.

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

**86 Canella NV Rosé Brut (Vino Spumante).** This wine has a very light character, reminiscent of strawberry candy. The palate is light, fresh and floral. Empson USA Ltd. —J.P.

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

**84 Costaripa NV Metodo Classico Brut Rosé (Vino Spumante).** Aromas of strawberries covered in powdered sugar with candied citrus peel and white flowers. Fruit forward with mixed red berry notes and finishing with a kiss of acidity. MatchVino LLC. —J.P.

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

## ITALY RED WINES

**90 Azienda Agricola Deliquent 2022 Losna (Vino Rosso d'Italia).** Macerated black plums, wild herbs, and dried violets define this wine. The palate is lush and rounded, with a very floral character and fine tannins, leading to an herbal and savory finish. Amanda's Wine Adventures. —J.P.

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

**88 Cà dei Frati 2020 Ronchedone (Italy).** The moment the cork is pulled, fun is to be had with this wine. It opens with aromas of ripe blueberries and macerated cherries dusted in allspice with hints of dried thyme and purple flowers. Juicy plums pop on the mouth-filling palate with vibrant acidity keeping it fresh and fine tannins on the finish. Ethica Wines. —J.P.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**88 Cielo e Terra 2022 Famiglia Cielo (Italy).** Bright cherry and crushed flowers mingle with savory herbs and spices. Coffee and a touch of leather add complexity to the aromas. USA Wine West. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**86 Luca Bosio NV Rosso Semi Sweet (Italy).** Wild plums meet candied violets in this semisweet and fizzy red that is perfect for picnics or with that light red/blue/black-berried centric dessert. Easy and fresh on the palate with raspberry and blackberry flavors balanced by a touch of floral and herbal notes on the finish. Quintessential. *Best Buy.* —J.P.

**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Paladin 2020 Syrah (Italy).** Aromas of white pepper, blackberry, olive and dried herbs open the nose of this wine. Gamy, with lush flavors of blueberry compote, savory spice, allspice and leather define the palate. Serendipity Wines TX. —J.P.

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

**85 Bosco del Merlo 2020 Seduzione Syrah (Italy).** Plump and forward, this wine opens with aromas of mixed berry jam with white pepper and rosemary. The lush and forward palate shows plum and fig with roasted earth notes on the finish. Serendipity Wines TX. —J.P.

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

**84 Vivace NV Semi-sweet (Italy).** This semi-sweet wine pops on the palate with candied mixed red berries and a subtle floral note. Defined by its easy nature and fruitiness, the palate is juicy and loaded with Luxardo cherry and sweet spice flavors. I highly recommend a chill to this wine. Enotec Imports, Inc. —J.P.

**abv:** 5% **Price:** \$15



## GREECE

### ASSYRTIKO

**91 Oeno P 2021 Tria Ampelia Assyrtiko (Santorini).** From 60-year-old vines on Greece's windswept Santorini island comes this pale-straw-colored Assyrtiko with notes of ripe peaches, fresh tangerines and just-picked lemons on the nose. The medium body is a result of the 16 months the wine spends on its lees in the bottle, as are the irresistible lemon poundcake flavors on the palate and long finish. Vineyards to Table. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**90 Alpha Estate 2022 Aghia Kiriaki Ecosystem Assyrtiko (Florina).** From Macedonia's Amyndeon region comes this beautifully refreshing Assyrtiko perfumed with the scent of ripe white peaches. The racy palate zips along with freshly squeezed lemon juice plus the pleasant bitterness of grapefruit pith, followed by a long, bright finish. After 16 hours of skin contact, the wine is vinified in stainless steel and sits with its lees for four months, giving the finished wine nuanced flavors and enough body to stand up to shellfish, pastas and more. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**90 Domaine Papagiannakos 2022 Assyrtiko (Attica).** Expect bright citrus flavors on this easy-drinking Assyrtiko from Domaine Papagiannakos, an influential Greek winery situated some 20 miles from downtown Athens. Aromas include juicy ripe yellow peaches and racy lemon juice and zest, plus faintly herbaceous undertones of thyme and sage. Winebow Imports. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**90 Skouras 2022 Wild Ferment Assyrtiko (Peloponnese).** There's the faintest whiff of white flowers on the otherwise citrus-driven nose of this racy Assyrtiko from Domaine Skouras, a 1986 winery in an almost comically picturesque corner of Greece's Peloponnese. Fermented with indigenous yeasts and aged for four months on its lees, the wine has pleasantly balanced lemon and grapefruit flavors plus a touch of viscosity on the medium-bodied palate. Drink now with light, bright foods and snacks, or serve as an aperitif and regret absolutely nothing. Diamond Importers Inc. **Best Buy.** —E.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

### MALAGOUSIA

**90 Alpha Estate 2022 Single Vineyard Turtles Malagousia (Florina).** Elegant and bright, this single-vineyard Malagousia from northwestern Macedonia all but dances in the glass. It pours a pale straw color and bursts onto the nose and palate with lots of ripe stone fruit, honeysuckle and candied citrus notes, plus some faint floral flavors. Racy acidity throughout will have you reaching for your next sip, while the round, structured palate makes

the wine equally suited to happy hour or the dinner table. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**90 Domaine Costa Lazaridi 2022 Single Vineyard Malagousia (Drama).** Round and fresh, this elegant white wine hails from a low-yield plot in one of the northernmost vineyards in Greece. Made from 100% Malagousia, an indigenous white wine grape, the bright yellow-green pour announces itself with lime juice and zest aromas offset by pears, apricots and white flowers. There's juicy peach-candy flavors on the palate plus a little candied citrus peel followed by a long acidic finish. Prestige Beverage Group. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**89 Domaine Papagiannakos 2022 Kalogeri Malagousia (Attica).** A bright beauty from a historic Attica winery, this light-bodied white wine has fresh citrus notes and ripe stone fruit on the nose and palate. Its racy lemon juice and lime zest flavors are complemented by grapefruit pith and faint herbaceous aromas. Run by third-generation winemaker Vassilis Papagiannakos, Domaine Papagiannakos was among the earliest Greek wineries to embrace indigenous varieties and this engaging yet approachable bottle demonstrates the wisdom of their ways. Winebow Imports. —E.S.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$22

### OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Douloufakis 2022 Dafnios Vidiano (Crete).** Just-picked cantaloupe aromas leap from the glass of this straw-colored white wine from Crete's influential, family-run Douloufakis winery. Vidiano, a native Cretan variety, has become a local darling in recent years and this elegant, beautifully balanced iteration shows how it can shine when handled with care. The light-bodied palate has melon and citrus flavors, plus a long, lemon-driven finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**90 Alpha Estate 2022 Kaliva Ecosystem Fumé Sauvignon Blanc (Florina).** A nuanced Sauvignon Blanc from high-altitude vineyards of Macedonia, this wine has candied-peach aromas offset by tart lemon on the aromatic nose. Alpha Estate ages it in oak barriques for less than seven months, creating a pleasantly textured body. Expect floral notes alongside citrus flavors on the pale, straw-hued wine, followed by a long, tart finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**90 Domaine Papagiannakos 2022 Old Vines Savatiano (Markopoulo).** Fresh and lively, this medium-bodied white wine features Greece's indigenous Savatiano, a white grape with fresh lemon juice and white-peach aromas. Vegan and vinified entirely in steel, it's an easy-drinking wine that could be served chilled as an aperitif or with all sorts of foods, especially vegetable- and acid-forward dishes. There are floral and stone fruit

notes plus ample acidity on the long, racy finish. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy.** —E.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Santos & Seixo 2022 Encosta do Sobral Chardonnay (Tegea).** A light wood aging has given this wine some richness. With its melon and apricot flavors, it has a warm character that is open and generous. Drink from 2024. Diniz Cellars. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

### XINOMAVRO

**90 Alpha Estate 2020 Single Vineyard Hedgehog Xinomavro (Amyndeon).** The perfect red wine to serve with a slight chill, this elegant bottle from northwestern Greece has invitingly fresh cranberry, raspberry and cherry aromas. The bright tangerine and cherry flavors on the light-bodied palate are complemented by dried herbs and the faintest whisper of cloves, an indication of the 12 months the wine spends in oak before release. It's made entirely from Xinomavro, a deeply pigmented indigenous red grape, farmed on high-elevation plots. Ideal for pairing with all sorts of salty cheeses, meats and other full-flavored fare, it finishes long and bright. The story behind the wine is almost as compelling as what's in the glass. It's named after a locally protected species of hedgehog. The Macedonian winery's footprint dates to 1997, when it was founded by esteemed enologist Angelos Iatridis. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**89 Alpha Estate 2019 Barba Yannis Vieilles Vignes Reserve Xinomavro (Amyndeon).** Made from Xinomavro, Greece's dark-skinned, indigenous red grape grown throughout the country's mountainous north, this deep burgundy-colored wine has fresh plums and raspberries on the nose. Winemakers at this estate harvest grapes from ungrafted vines planted in 1919 and age this unfiltered wine for 24 months in new French oak before it spends another 12 months in the bottle before release. The light-bodied palate has slightly more alcohol than bright red fruit at the moment, but plenty of acidity on the finish, all of which speaks to even more aging capabilities. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$47

### OTHER RED WINE

**88 Avantis 2018 Estate Collection Syrah (Evia).** Vanilla syrup—the type you might pump into an Italian ice—headlines the nose of this Syrah from central Evia. It's evidence of its malolactic fermentation and the 18 months it spends in new French oak barrels. There are also aromas of baking spices, candied orange peel and sweet red berries. The palate is considerably drier than the nose suggests, with balanced fruit and artfully integrated

# BUYINGGUIDE

tannins plus a long, acidic finish. Nestor Imports. —E.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$57

## RED BLENDS

**89 Alpha Estate 2020 Axia Syrah-Xinomavro (Florina).** This richly hued red wine from northwestern Macedonia's Amyndeon region gets its spicy, fruity flavors from the blend of grapes: It's composed of 50% Syrah and 50% Xinomavro, a deeply pigmented red grape indigenous to northern Greece. Its tart cranberry and ripe summer plum aromas are balanced by earthy and leather notes, while the medium-bodied palate has fresh red currants, spicy black pepper and faintly herbaceous flavors. Structured and nuanced, it caps off with a long, tart finish. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**89 Chatzivaritis Estate 2020 Mosaic Red Blend (Greece).** A great red wine to chill, this blend from the slopes of Paiko, Greece announces itself with tart cranberry aromas. The light-bodied palate has bright red fruit complemented by earthy notes and grippy, well-integrated tannins. The name of the wine, Mosaic, is a nod to the array of indigenous and what locals call "European" (*Vitis vinifera*) grapes in the blend: It contains 25% each Xinomavro, Negoska, Cabernet and Merlot grapes, all of which are organic. Wine For The World. —E.S.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$22

**88 Avantis 2018 Avantis Estate Agrios Chronos Holy Time Red Blend (Evia).** There are two international grape varieties—primarily Syrah with a splash of Viognier—in this medium-bodied red wine from Central Greece's Evia region. Look for cherry-vanilla aromas followed by red-fruit flavors and well-integrated tannins on the palate. An excellent food wine with bottle-aging potential, it has a long, grippy finish. Nestor Imports. —E.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$37

**85 Alpha Estate 2020 S.M.X. Red Blend (Florina).** This red wine blend gets its deep burgundy hue from Syrah and Xinomavro, a dark-skinned indigenous red grape grown throughout the country's northern regions. A portion of Merlot in the mix aims to keep things smooth. The nose has notes of cloves, allspice and sweet vanilla extract alongside tart red fruit. On the palate, the alcohol outpaces the fruit, and the wine has a long, bitter finish with grippy tannins. Diamond Importers Inc. —E.S.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$44

## CHAMPAGNE

**94 Pol Roger 2018 Rosé Brut (Champagne).** There is still some youth in this Champagne. Its red fruits and balancing acidity and texture are finely poised, the wine showing its good percentage of Pinot Noir in the blend. It is already rich and will gradually move into greater maturity. Drink now for

freshness or wait until at least 2026 for maturity. Frederick Wildman & Sons, Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$122

**93 Champagne Palmer 2015 Grands Terroirs (Champagne).** For full review see page 11. Quintessential.  
abv: 12% Price: \$145

**91 Palmer & Co NV Blanc de Blancs Brut (Champagne).** This 100% Chardonnay Champagne has a fine tang and an edge of minerality. Its ripe fruits are a balance to the acidity and vivid texture. The wine has a beautifully crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Quintessential. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$102

**89 Palmer & Co NV Rosé Solera Brut (Champagne).** A blend of Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, this Champagne is piled high with red fruits. Its acidity has been softened by the dosage that also fills out the wine. It is a ripe wine with a light yeasty aftertaste. Drink the bottling now. Quintessential. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$92

**88 Palmer & Co NV Brut Réserve (Champagne).** This nonvintage blend is the flagship Champagne of Palmer & Co. It is soft and aromatic, its ripe fruits bringing out red apple and Williams pear flavors. It is a rich wine, ready to drink. Quintessential. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$65

## LOIRE VALLEY WHITE WINES

### SANCERRE

**93 Laporte 2022 La Comtesse (Sancerre).** This is classic Sancerre that is multifaceted and true to the region. This wine has a beautiful, herbal nose of dried grass clippings, golden apple, pear, forest floor, hay and dried white blossom. On the palate the wine is somewhat creamy in texture with a long finish. Martine's Wines. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

**93 Steve Millet 2019 Le Désert du Petit Bannon (Sancerre).** This is grown-up Sancerre like the one you open when the kids are asleep and it's happy time. Lemon-gold in color, this wine has a nose of toasted bread, brioche, clove baking spice, golden apple, caramel and baked pear. The wine is creamy in texture with gorgeous fruit concentration and body. Cape Classics. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.  
abv: 14% Price: \$45

**92 Nicolas Millet 2022 Le Vallon (Sancerre).** This is an acid-forward Sancerre produced from 58-year-old vines. Lemon in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of pear, green apple, acacia, white peach, and lemon zest. The wine is fresh, bright and youthful with racy acidity and fruit

bounce on the finish. T. Elenteny Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

**91 J. de Villebois 2022 (Sancerre).** This Sancerre leans into being fulsome. Slightly gold in color, the wine has an aromatic nose of golden apple, orange marmalade, Bosc pear and dried white blossom petal. The wine is slightly creamy in texture with a combination of ripe and tart fruit on the palate. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.  
abv: 13% Price: \$37

**90 Domaine de la Pauline 2022 (Sancerre).** This is a palate-cleansing Sancerre that refreshes. Lemon-green in color, this wine has a nose of lemon zest, green pear, starfruit and white blossom. Citrus-forwardness extends to the palate with racy acidity that continues through to the end of the taste. Regal Wine Imports Inc. —R.S.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

**90 Domaine du Pré Semelé 2022 (Sancerre).** This Sancerre is perfect for gatherings where you want a balanced Sauvignon Blanc to appeal to multiple tastes. Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of golden apple, lemon citrus, Asian pear, brioche and lemon citrus peel. The wine is creamy in texture with some additional notes of bread dough. The Sorting Table. —R.S.  
abv: 13% Price: \$40

**90 J. de Villebois 2022 Griottes (Sancerre).** If you like Sancerre with slight savory notes, you'll love this. Lemon in color, the wine has a nose of green apple slice, freshly dried grass and dried white blossom. The wine has bright acidity with fresh green fruit on the palate. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$59

**90 J. de Villebois 2022 Marnes Kimméridgennes (Sancerre).** This Sancerre offers a good balance of fruit and herbal notes. The wine has a nose of golden apple, dried grass, honey, ginger and lemon zest. The wine is somewhat creamy in texture with a fruit-forward midpalate and pleasing savory notes. Vineyard Brands. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.  
abv: 13% Price: \$59

**90 Nicolas Millet 2022 Le Chêne Marchand (Sancerre).** This Sancerre offers a combination freshness and restraint in one bottle. This wine has an aromatic nose of golden apple, Bosc pear, lemon curd and white flower. The wine is slightly creamy in texture with a definitive spine of fresh fruit. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$44

**90 Nicolas Millet 2022 Les Grands Champs (Sancerre).** This Sancerre balances freshness with elegant restraint. The wine has a mature nose of golden apple, fall pear, dried apricot, white flower and quince. The wine is somewhat creamy in

texture with crushed stone and yogurt notes on the finish. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Nicolas Millet 2022 La Marne (Sancerre).** Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of Bosc pear, red apple, white nectarine and lemon citrus. There is zesty minerality on the midpalate along with crushed shells that add depth and lend complexity. This Sancerre grown on 48-year-old vines would serve well as an aperitif and paired with lighter dishes. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Nicolas Millet 2022 Les Garennes (Sancerre).** This is a solid Sancerre that is fresh and youthful. Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of golden apple, pear compote, pastry, white flower and hints of white peach. The wine is steely in texture with racy acidity through to the long finish. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**89 Steve Millet 2022 (Sancerre).** This is a solid Sancerre. Lemon in color, this wine has a nose of fresh-squeezed tangerine, lemon citrus, golden apple and freshly cut grass. The Sancerre is fresh and clean on the palate with bright acidity. Cape Classics. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 J. de Villebois 2022 Silex (Sancerre).** This is a Sancerre you can open and enjoy any day of the week. Lemon in color, the wine has a nose of fresh Granny Smith apple, Fuji pear, white nectarine and white blossom. The wine is steely in texture with lemon citrus notes emerging on the finish. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$59

## TOURAINE

**90 Domaine Beauséjour 2022 Les Grenettes Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** Lemon in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of quince, white blossom and golden apple with hints of white nectarine and lemon citrus. The wine is vibrant on the palate with fruit persistence that continues to the end of the taste. This is a Sauvignon Blanc you could serve by itself or pair with food. JP Bourgeois. *Best Buy.* —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Mary Taylor 2020 Luc Poullain (Touraine).** This Sauvignon Blanc is bright and energetic. The wine has an aromatic and savory nose of Bosc pear, golden apple, dried grass and white blossom. Vibrant acidity fills the palate with added lemon citrus buttressing the long finish. Mary Taylor Wine. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Webster Barnes Selection 2022 Domaine du Haut Morlu Sauvignon Blanc (Touraine).** This is a reserved Sauvignon Blanc that has a persistent stony character. Lemon in color, the wine

has a nose of golden apple, Asian pear and blossom. There is minerality and crushed stone on the midpalate. Pair with seafood and white meats. Webster Barnes LLC. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Joseph Verdier 2022 Trésors de Loire (Touraine).** A crisp, herbal wine with citrus fruits and a lively, fresh character. There is attractive green fruit and a light texture. Drink now. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Domaine Jérôme Marcadet 2022 (Cour-Cheverny).** Romorantin is a true site-specific variety, coming from this small appellation in Touraine. It gives a fine chiselled wine, fresh with intense acidity and pure citrus flavors. It is a beautiful wine that is ready to drink. Jack Edwards Collection. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**90 Domaine Thet 2021 Sec (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** For full review see page 22. Fruit of the Vines, Inc.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36

**90 Domaine Thet 2020 Demi-Sec (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** This is a soft, medium-dry wine with fine nuts and honey flavors. The wine's acidity backs up the creamed apple flavors. It's full of fruit, likely to age further, from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$36

**89 J. de Villebois 2022 (Touraine Chenonceaux).** Lemon-gold in color, this wine has a nose of Bosc pear, quince, nectarine stone fruit, white blossom and Fuji apple. The wine is steely in texture with some stoniness on the finish. This is a solid Loire white wine. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Domaine Jérôme Marcadet 2022 (Cheverny).** Grassy white fruits give this 80% Sauvignon Blanc blend a crisp texture. The wine's Chardonnay smooths some of the edges and adds a creamy aftertaste. Drink now. Free Run Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**88 J. de Villebois 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Val de Loire).** This is a solid Sauvignon Blanc to enjoy with a weeknight meal. The wine has an aromatic nose of freshly cut grass, green apple, lemon citrus and green pear. This wine is steely on the palate with bright acidity that runs through the entire length of the taste. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

## SPARKLING WINES

**88 Domaine Thet NV Extra Brut (Montlouis-sur-Loire).** This is a mature, nutty wine lifted by citrus and fresh acidity. It is soft, creamy and lightly yeasty, finishing with a crisp final texture. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

**88 Domaine Thet NV Rosé Brut (Touraine).** A very Loire blend of Gamay, Pineau d'Aunis and Grolleau, this sparkling blend is fruity with a red fruit character. That links with a lemon freshness that gives the wine an attractive ripe feel. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$34

## LOIRE VALLEY ROSÉ WINES

**90 J. de Villebois 2022 Rosé (Sancerre).** This is an elegant rosé. This salmon-colored wine has a nose of red cherry, Bosc pear, cranberry and white flower with a hint of brioche. The wine has a supple midpalate with red fruit and some depth. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**88 Fournier Père et Fils 2022 MMM Pinot Noir Rosé (Loire).** If you're a rosé drinker, this wine is one you can open for friends who enjoy having wine by the glass without eating for a while because of the low 12.5% alcohol. Salmon in color, this wine has a nose of strawberry, white blossom and fresh red cherry. Red fruit suggested on the nose continues to the palate. David Milligan Selections. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Henri Bourgeois 2022 Les Jeunes Vignes Pinot Noir Rosé (Sancerre).** This is a solid, enjoyable rosé. Salmon in color, this wine has a nose of red cherry, cranberry and orange citrus peel. The wine is steely in texture with generous red fruit on the midpalate. Pair with fish and poultry dishes. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**87 J. de Villebois 2022 Rosé (Val de Loire).** This rosé has a muted nose of strawberry, red cherry, white nectarine and white flower. On the palate the wine is fresh and straightforward. This is a great rosé for long evenings on the porch or to pair any time of year with a niçoise salad. Vineyard Brands. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**87 Le Garenne 2022 (Rosé d'Anjou).** This is a good, uncomplicated Loire rosé for every day. This rosé has an aromatic nose of orange citrus, red cherry, strawberry and white blossom. A combination of bright and tart fruit fills the midpalate. Asgram LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.S.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$15



## LOIRE VALLEY RED WINES

### SANCERRE

**91** **Domaine Gueneau 2019 Terres de Fossiles (Sancerre).** Sancerre isn't just about white wine, and this Sancerre proves why you should be paying more attention. A perfumed nose of dried red cherry, leather, dried mushroom, forest floor and strawberry is this Pinot Noir's calling card. The wine is complex, bright yet mature with soft, well-integrated tannins befitting its age. JP Bourgeois. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$37

**91** **Roc de l'Abbaye 2020 (Sancerre).** Red cherry and strawberry swim together in this Sancerre that sunbathes on white flower blossom and rosehip. On the palate, dried hay and hints of black tea leaf layer in complexity while allowing the wine to remain bright and youthful. Demeine Estates. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Steve Millet 2021 (Sancerre).** This is a good example of what Sancerre has to offer. Ruby in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of red cherry, red raspberry, strawberry, almost-ripened fig, white flower and hints of red currant. On the palate the wine is a mix of just-ripened red fruit and tart red cherry. Cape Classics. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

**90** **Henri Bourgeois 2019 La Bourgeoise (Sancerre).** This Sancerre provides a glimpse into the region's Pinot Noir promise. This wine has an aromatic nose of ripe red cherry, earth, red raspberry, white blossom and strawberry. The wine is supple in texture with some crushed stone on the midpalate that harmonizes with red fruit. Chambers & Chambers. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Henri Bourgeois 2019 Les Baronnes (Sancerre).** Ruby in color, this Sancerre has an aromatic nose of black cherry, black raspberry, red currant and leather with hints of dried oak. The wine delivers on the palate in proportion to what is suggested on the nose with tart fruit dominating with some pockets of ripe fruit. Ideal Wine and Spirits. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$33

### CHINON

**91** **Webster Barnes Selection 2022 Domaine Angelliaume Cabernet Franc (Chinon).** This Chinon has a pleasing savory character. The wine has a nose of red currant, blackberry, dried herbs and forest floor. There are some chalky notes on the midpalate along with dried hay and tart red cherry.

This wine would pair especially well with herb-forward dishes. Webster Barnes LLC. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Le Garenne 2020 (Chinon).** For full review see page 23. Asgram LLC.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Nicolas Idiart 2021 Pas Touche Cabernet Franc (Chinon).** This bottle gives you what you expect from Chinon but with added depth. Deep ruby in color, this wine has an aromatic nose of macerated black raspberry, red cherry compote, black tea, strawberry and dried hay. There are dried red- and black-fruit elements on the nose with some grippy tannins on the finish. Obvious Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.S.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$19

### ANJOU

**91** **Clau de Nell 2020 Cabernet Franc (Anjou).** This Cabernet Franc combines fruit expressiveness and pleasing savory qualities. Deep purple in color, this wine has a nose of black plum, black tea, pencil shavings, dried violet blossom and forest floor. Black fruit is the foundation of this wine with earthy notes layered on top. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

## BEAUJOLAIS RED WINES

### MOULIN-À-VENT

**92** **Yohan Lardy 2022 Les Michelons (Moulin-à-Vent).** This is a complex and floral Moulin-à-Vent with depth of flavor. The wine has a nose of raspberry, black cherry, dried mushroom and rosehip. Concentration on the midpalate is led with black fruit supported by ripe, slightly grippy tannins. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**92** **Yohan Lardy 2022 Vieilles Vignes de 1903 (Moulin-à-Vent).** This earthy Moulin-à-Vent was produced from vines planted in 1903. The wine has a perfumed nose of black plum, red cherry, graphite and forest floor. Structured fruit dominates the palate with additional hints of hay completing with a long finish. Drink now and has ability to benefit from further aging. New Wave Wine Co. *Cellar Selection.* —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Lucien Lardy 2022 Les Thorins (Moulin-à-Vent).** Ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black plum, raspberry, rhubarb, black tea and dried red cherry. On the palate the wine is slightly velvety in texture with understated black fruit and earthy elements showing through. Pair this Moulin-à-Vent

with hearty dishes and grilled meats and vegetables. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Les Trois Roches (Moulin-à-Vent).** This wine has an aromatic nose of red cherry, strawberry, pomegranate, red plum and white blossom. The wine has a plush mouthfeel with soft, chewy tannins that gives the wine lift. This Moulin-à-Vent would be a versatile pairing partner with many dishes. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Patrick Tranchand 2022 Rochegrès (Moulin-à-Vent).** This Moulin-à-Vent is reserved with a somewhat muted nose of black raspberry and black plum with hints of boysenberry. There is pleasing fruit concentration on the palate that imparts depth. This wine can benefit from further aging and can also be enjoyed now. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

### FLEURIE

**93** **Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2022 (Fleurie).** Deep purple in color, this wine has an aromatic nose of red cherry, raspberry, strawberry, black tea, pomegranate and white flower. The palate reveals slightly grippy tannins that ride under the fruit and shine buttressed by equally supportive acidity. This Fleurie stands tall. Valkyrie Selections. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**92** **Gilles Copéret 2022 Les Roches (Fleurie).** Subtlety that doesn't go unnoticed is the strength of this Fleurie made from 65-year-old vines. Deep ruby in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of dried cranberry, rosehip, red plum, violet blossom and dried hay. On the palate the wine has slightly grippy tannin with some concentration on the mid- to back palate. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.S.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**92** **Lucien Lardy 2022 Les Moriers (Fleurie).** Deep purple in color, this Fleurie has a nose of black raspberry, black plum and dried cranberry. On the palate the wine has a plush mouthfeel and persistence on the finish. This wine would pair with almost any dish because of its complementary acid structure and supple red fruit. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Lucien Lardy 2022 Les Roches (Fleurie).** This wine has a nose of black plum, red cherry, rhubarb, black olive and forest floor. Slightly grippy tannin on the back palate lifts the fruit and imparts added depth. This Fleurie is a wine you pour in your glass and come back to periodically throughout an evening because it evolves in your glass and is a comfortable partner. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**92 Patrick Tranchand 2022 Côte De Poncié (Fleurie).** This is a delicate, floral Fleurie. Ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black plum, strawberry, red cherry and hibiscus. Delicate red and black fruit flirts with white blossom and black tea on the palate through to the finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## MORGON

**91 Laurent Gauthier 2022 Grand Cras (Morgon).** This wine has a perfumed nose of raspberry blossom, red plum, dried red cherry, strawberry and cranberry. Velvety tannin complements and enlivens the fruit and gives the wine structure. This is a fulsome Morgon that can age. New Wave Wine Co. **Best Buy.** —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**90 Laurent Gauthier 2022 Côte du Py (Morgon).** This is a cheerful Morgon Côte du Py. This wine has an aromatic nose of ripe red cherry, red plum, dried cranberry and white blossom. The wine is supple in mouthfeel with soft, well-integrated tannins that linger on the finish. New Wave Wine Co. **Cellar Selection.** —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2022 (Morgon).** This Morgon is jovial and complex. Ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black raspberry, rhubarb, boysenberry and dried red cherry. Generous red and black fruit fills the midpalate with slightly grippy tannin on the finish providing added texture. Valkyrie Selections. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**89 Domaine Pral 2022 Les Charmes (Morgon).** This is an understated Morgon that shows more on the nose than the palate. This wine has a nose of black cherry, black tea leaves, black raspberry, forest floor and black plum. Black fruit is restrained on the palate with soft tannin showing on the finish. JP Bourgeois. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Famille Gauthier 2022 Parcelle L'Évêque (Morgon).** This ruby-colored Morgon has a nose of black cherry, rhubarb, strawberry and black plum. A mix of tart and ripe fruit dominates the midpalate supported by minerality that runs throughout the length of the taste. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**89 Jean-Michel Dupré 2022 Grands Cras (Morgon).** This is a somewhat restrained Morgon. Ruby in color, this wine has a nose of cherry cola, red raspberry, red cherry and hints of hibiscus. On the palate there are additional notes of graphite and pencil shavings that lend additional texture. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Ludovic Montginot 2022 Côte du Py (Morgon).** Ruby in color, this wine has a nose of strawberry, dried red cherry, red plum and white blossom. Muted red wine aromas on the nose remain restrained on the palate. This Morgon Côte du Py would pair well with goat cheese and lighter dishes. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88 Jean-Michel Dupré 2022 Côte du Py (Morgon).** This Morgon Côte du Py has a nose of cherry cola, strawberry, pomegranate and forest floor. There is some chalkiness on the midpalate that is in balance with tart red fruit. This wine is restrained with personality like a wildcard dinner-party guest. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

## BROUILLY

**90 Pierre-Marie Chermette 2022 Pierreux (Brouilly).** This is a fun, fit and fruity Brouilly. Deep purple in color, this wine has an aromatic nose of red cherry, black plum, boysenberry, strawberry and hibiscus. A combination of generous fruit and floral flavors swim along the palate. Weygandt-Metzler. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Robert Perroud 2022 Pollen En Saburin (Brouilly).** This Brouilly is deep purple in color with an aromatic nose of rosehip, dried violet petals, black plum and red cherry. Florality on the nose continues through to the end of the taste with slightly grippy tannin making itself known on the finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Robert Perroud 2022 Foudre No. 5 (Côte de Brouilly).** This is a solid Côte de Brouilly with pleasing florality. Ruby in color, this wine has a nose of black cherry, red currant, red plum and strawberry. Tart black cherry on the palate leads the taste followed by red fruit. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**88 Robert Perroud 2022 L'Enfer des Balloquets (Brouilly).** This is the soft, supple side of Brouilly. Deep ruby in color with some garnet around the edges, the wine has a nose of black raspberry and black plum with hints of black cherry. The wine is velvety in texture with tannins that carry through to the end of the taste. New Wave Wine Co. **Best Buy.** —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## OTHER RED WINES

**90 Maison Rémy Passot et Fils 2022 (Chiroubles).** This Chiroubles has a floral nose of dried violet blossom, black raspberry, red plum and forest floor. The wine has concentrated fruit that is supported by supple tannin. This wine is a versatile food-pairing partner because of its mutually rein-

forcing fruit and tannin structure. Valkyrie Selections. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**90 Pascal Aufranc 2022 Naturellement (Chénas).** Deep purple in color, this wine has a perfumed nose of ripe black plum, raspberry puree, just-ripened summer strawberry, black tea and violet blossom. The Chénas is complex with restrained fruit flavors showing as a whole rather than as individual fruits. Drink now and can age for five-plus years. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Pascal Berthier 2022 Esprit de Séduction (Saint-Amour).** This is a sturdy Saint Amour with oomph. Deep purple in color, this wine has a nose of black plum, red currant, dried mushroom and black cherry. Additional notes of pencil shavings and forest floor reveal themselves on the palate with lingering grippy tannin on the finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Pascal Aufranc 2021 Les Crots (Juliéas).** Deep purple in color, this wine has an aromatic nose of black plum and cassis with hints of black cherry and alpine strawberry. There are mineral notes of shaved granite and crushed shells on the midpalate. This Juliéas would pair well with white meats and vegetable dishes. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Pascal Aufranc 2021 Probus (Juliéas).** This is an athletic Juliéas. This wine has a nose of red cherry, red currant, raspberry, forest floor, white blossom and a hint of dried field grass. There are crushed shells and almost-ripened fruit on the midpalate supported by velvety tannin. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Patrick Tranchand 2022 Coeur De Gamay (Saint-Amour).** This is a red-fruit-led Saint Amour. This wine has a nose of raspberry, red plum, rosehip, red cherry and white blossom. There are notes of crushed granite on the palate along with tart-red fruit buttressed by slightly velvety tannin on the finish. New Wave Wine Co. —R.S.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## BORDEAUX WHITE WINES

**90 Château Rayne Vigneau 2022 Le Sec de Rayne Vigneau (Bordeaux Blanc).** A crisp, dry white wine from this Sauternes estate, this is fresh with ripe fruit. Its acidity and tangy character give this wine a vivid texture. It needs a little more time, so wait to drink until 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

# BUYINGGUIDE

**89** **Château le Gardera 2022 Le Ruisseau (Bordeaux Blanc)**. From a selection of Gardera parcels, this wine has a light spice to go with the rich fruits and apple and kiwi flavors. Partially aged in wood, it is worth aging further. Drink from late 2024. Wineberry America LLC. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$18

**88** **Château George 7 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc)**. This is a soft and rounded wine with acidity and a layer of citrus fruits. It has a vivid character, the fruitiness is right there, forward and fresh. Drink from 2024. Flora & Fauna Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Maison Bouey 2022 Pierre Angulaire (Bordeaux Blanc)**. A crisp, herbal and grassy wine whose name means cornerstone, this is fresh and bright with citrus fruits. It is a fruity wine that is ready to drink. Christopher Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château Domi-Cours 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc)**. Crisp and herbal, this is a lightly vivid and textured wine. It has freshness and a vibrant character that gives the wine great freshness. Drink now. Duclot La Vinicole. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château Petit Freylon 2022 Cuvée Marguerite (Bordeaux Blanc)**. The wine is soft, gently textured with a fruit salad of citrus and yellow fruits. It has a fresher side to go with the ripeness of the wine. It is ready to drink. Misa Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Château Roquefort 2022 Les Roches Blanches Sauvignon Blanc (Bordeaux Blanc)**. Bright fruit with citrus flavors and a vividly fresh character give this wine a delicious brightness and a mineral edge. Drink this refreshing wine from 2024. Duclot La Vinicole. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Château de Marsan 2022 (Bordeaux Blanc)**. A light, bright blend of 60% Sauvignon Blanc and 40% Sémillon, this is fresh, fruity and crisp. It has lemon and herbal flavors, giving depth to the fruit. Drink now. Misa Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

## BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**91** **Mayne Mazerolles 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Now fully mature, this wine from a 70-acre estate on the right bank of the Gironde is ripe and soft. Its texture is rich, dense with white fruits and touches of toast. The wine's acidity, now tamed, gives it a delicious edge of minerality. Drink from 2025. W Direct. **Cellar Selection**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Mayne Mazerolles 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux)**. Fermented in wood, this blend of 60% Sémillon and 40% Sauvignon Blanc is rich and dense. It has concentration, its white fruits laced with tropical flavors is rich and full. Drink this fine wine from 2024. W Direct. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

## ENTRE-DEUX-MERS

**91** **Château Vermont 2022 La Grande Cuvée (Entre-deux-Mers Haut-Benaige)**. Vinified in wood, this delicious wine has a spicy character. Its acidity comes through the ripe fruits and tropical edge. The wine finishes with an attractive tangy, vibrant character. It should age a few months. Drink from 2024. Kysela Père et Fils. **Editors' Choice**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$33

**90** **Château Brondeau du Tertre 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine has spice to go with the ripe, warm white fruits. Dominated by Sémillon, it has a rich, creamy texture that gives it a full-bodied character. Drink the wine now. Artisan Wines, Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Château de Fontenille 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine, from close to the abbey of La Sauve, is rich and creamy, its density and spice combines with the the ripe white fruits. The wine could age further, so wait to drink until late 2024. Winebow Imports. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**90** **Château Lestrille 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. With a good percentage of Sauvignon Gris in the blend, the wine is perfumed. It is a ripe wine, full of generous white fruits balanced with acidity. Drink from 2024. Charles Neal Selections. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**90** **Château Moulin De Ferrand 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine has depth from the use of the lees in aging, giving extra richness. A blend of all four Bordeaux white grapes, the wine is generous and rounded. There is also a crisp element giving a tang to the wine at the end. Organic and biodynamic. Grape Expectations (CA). **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Château Turcaud 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A fruity wine full of vivid acidity, it is young, bright and potentially refreshing as it matures. The blend includes a good dash of Muscadelle that gives it a floral character. It is crisp, needing to soften for a few months. Drink from 2024. Fleet Street Wine Merchants. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Château Vignol 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. This nutty, ripe blend that includes Sauvignon Gris and Muscadelle has a fine, perfumed

character. It is rich and full, its fruit flavors touched by yellow fruits that give it richness. Drink now. The Wine List Inc. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Château Bonnet 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. From one of the largest estates in the Entre-deux-Mers owned by the Lurton family, this bright and fruity wine is immediately accessible. Its green fruit and citrus edge are fresh, Sauvignon Blanc giving a herbal edge to the wine. Drink now. Touton Selection. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**89** **Château de l'Aubrade 2022 Aubrade Le Prestige (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A fine wood-aged wine from selected parcels, this is rich, full-bodied and full of spice and white fruits. Tropical fruits come through at the end. Drink from 2024. CK French Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$37

**89** **Château Moulin de Launay 2022 Cuvée No 5 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. This ripe wine, a tribute to five generations of growers, has a fine depth and concentration. With white fruits to the fore, the wine has an attractive perfume. Drink now. 1\_No Submitting Co. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Château Malène 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. This wine, blending Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon and Muscadelle, is light, fresh and lively. It has touches of richness as a contrast, giving a balanced wine that is ready to drink. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy**. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

**88** **Château Roquefort 2022 Rives (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Ripe and tangy, this light wine is full of orange zest and spice flavors. The dominant Sémillon is rich with a creamy texture, bringing acidity and touches of apple. Drink from 2024. Duclot La Vinicole. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Vermont 2022 Prestige (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Fruity, lightly perfumed, the wine is fresh and crisp. It is lightly textured with a mineral edge and final acidity. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Domaine du Bourdieu 2022 Sainte Anne (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A soft and fruity wine with rich white fruits laced with citrus. It's bright, the acidity cutting the wine's ripe character to leave a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**88** **Domaine du Rouchet 2022 Millésime (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine is textured, lightly mineral and fresh. Grapefruit flavors are dominant, fruity and crisp with a vibrant aftertaste. Drink now. Banville Wine Merchants. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA



**87** **Château Au Grand Paris 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A fresh, light wine with fine acidity and a crisp texture. It's a generous wine with a soft aftertaste. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**87** **Château Grand Jean 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A crisp, lemon-flavored wine with a good balance between Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. Its freshness is vivid and brings out the ripe acidity. Drink now. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Château Haut Bessac 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine is full of white fruits, laced with lemon acidity. It has a vibrant character, the tangy texture going right through the wine. Drink now. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château Haut-Garriga 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. There is an attractive floral edge to this wine coming from the Muscadelle in the blend. It is fruity, with white fruit flavors and lifted by acidity. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Château La Mothe du Barry 2022 Cuvée French Kiss (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Half and half Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, the wine is ripe and fruity. It has a rich character, white fruits and a tangy brightness. Drink the wine now. Organic. Elite Wines Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**87** **Château Landereau 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. Crisp, herbal Sauvignon comes through strongly in this bright, citrus-flavored wine. It is full of fruit, lightly textured and ready to drink. Wine-Wise. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**87** **Château Sainte-Marie 2022 Cuvée Madlys (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. With light barrel aging, the wine is ripe, the richness contrasting with tangy acidity. It is a fruity wine that needs time to calm down. Drink from 2024. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Château de l'Aubrade 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A blend of four varieties, the wine is bright and fruity. Green and citrus flavors are fresh and crisp. Drink now. CK French Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**86** **Château les Arromans 2022 (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. A ripe and rounded wine, this is full of white fruits. Zesty acidity and strong citrus flavors suggest that the wine is still young. Age for a while and drink from 2024. Elite Wines Import. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**86** **Château Sainte-Marie 2022 Vieilles Vignes (Entre-Deux-Mers)**. The wine's light, fruity character is bright and soft. It has a light pepper edge, its contrasting acidity giving the wine a lemon-zesty character. Drink now. Polaner Selections. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## GRAVES

**91** **Château Lugaud 2022 (Graves)**. Dating back to the end of the 19th century, the estate, owned by the Reyaud family, has created a ripe, fruity wine. Its kiwi flavors along with touches of tropical fruits give it a rich feel. The wine will be ready from 2024. CK French Wines LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$42

**90** **Château des Places 2022 Agora du Château des Places (Graves)**. The top wine from Château des Places is lightly wood aged. It has spice from this wood along with a layer of grapefruit and orange zest flavors. Drink this fruity wine from late 2024. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**89** **Château des Places 2022 (Graves)**. An aromatic wine with a strongly herbal edge that is balanced by a more creamy texture from Sémillon. Muscadelle gives a floral ripeness to the wine. Drink from 2024. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**88** **Château Doms 2022 (Graves)**. Crisp, fresh and full of white and citrus fruits, this has a refreshing, lifted character. An edge of minerality adds to the wine's complexity. It is fruity and ready to drink. Lanterna Distributors. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88** **Château Lagrange 2022 Ambassadeur de Graves (Graves)**. Owned by the Reynaud family since 2015, the estate has produced a crisp, grapefruit- and spice-flavored wine. Lightly wood aged, it is fruity and freshly direct. Drink now. Organic. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Château Fage 2022 (Graves de Vayres)**. A crisp, herbal wine with acidity and layers of green fruits. It has freshness and a tangy texture that is refreshing and ready to drink. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château Pontey Lamartine 2022 Cuvée des Parcelles (Graves)**. This blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon is crisp and with attractive kiwi flavors. It is a lightly textured wine, fresh and ready to drink from 2024. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Les Chais de Rions 2022 Fleur de Bern Cuvée Prestige (Graves)**. This wine has a fine combination of Sémillon and Sauvignon Blanc. The Sémillon brings a creamy, soft character and red

apple fruits. That's topped by fresh, crisp Sauvignon Blanc to bring bright acidity at the end. Drink now. Misa Imports. *Best Buy*. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## CRÉMANT DE BORDEAUX

**90** **Vignobles Gonfrier NV Odyssea Blanc de Blancs Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. Produced from a blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon, the wine has richness and the potential to age further. There is a hint of honey from the Sémillon, which was picked ripe and just beginning to show noble rot. This is a delicious wine that will be better from 2024. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$31

**89** **Celene NV Saphir Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. This rosé sparkling wine is full with the high proportion Merlot in the blend. That gives a caramel richness to the wine, finishing with acidity. Drink the wine now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**88** **Château Grand Jean NV Pur Grand Jean Rosé Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. Made entirely from Cabernet Sauvignon, this dry sparkling rosé is full of fruit with a light dry edge and freshness. It is bright, forward and ready to drink. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Vignobles Gonfrier NV O Brut Nature (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. Mainly from the 2020 vintage, this young sparkling wine, with its yeasty aroma, is crisp and bone dry. The apple and cream flavors are developing as the wine matures. It will become a richer wine as it progresses. Drink this bottling from 2025. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$39

**87** **Celene NV Ballarin Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. This is a vibrant, tangy wine, blending white and some Cabernet Franc. Aging for 12 months in caves, it is still brightly fresh with lemon flavors. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**87** **Celene NV Louis Labastide Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. This is a spicy, tangy and yeasty wine. It is fresh and fruity, lightly spicy and perfumed from Sémillon and Muscadelle in the blend. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**86** **Celene NV Ballarin Cuvée Noble Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. Aged for a year after bottling, the wine is spicy and fruity. It has a yeasty character to balance the citrus and white fruits. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$29

**86** **Celene NV Cuvée Royale Brut (Crémant de Bordeaux)**. This blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, aged for 18 months, is rich and fruity.

# BUYINGGUIDE

Red fruits and acidity give brightness and a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$25

## DESSERT WINES

**94** **Château Nairac 2017 (Barsac).** Low yields have given this still-young wine concentration. The balance between acidity and botrytis is just right, a fresh streak brightening the wine's richness. Drink from 2025. Advantage International. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**93** **Château Nairac 2016 (Barsac).** Deep in color with richness now firmly settled, this wine is moving to a fine poise. There is energy, ripeness, underlined by acidity and concentration. The wine is almost ready to drink; wait until late 2024. Advantage International. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**92** **Château Nairac 2018 (Barsac).** Unusually high in alcohol, the wine is rich, missing some of the balance of top vintages. It is an attractive wine, full of honey and rich yellow fruits. The wine will develop further. Drink from 2026. Advantage International. —R.V.  
abv: 15% Price: \$NA

## BORDEAUX ROSÉ WINES

**88** **Château Roquefort 2022 Les Roches Blanches Cabernet Franc (Bordeaux Rosé).** A fruity, perfumed rosé with a bright, fresh texture, this is light and bright. Its acidity is still young, forward, so the wine could benefit from some aging. Drink from mid-2024. Duclot La Vinicole. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$26

**86** **Château de Marsan 2022 (Bordeaux Rosé).** A crisp, clear rosé that has some Cabernet Sauvignon to mitigate the caramel flavor of the Merlot. It is ripe with red fruits and citrus coming together. Drink now. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$16

**85** **Terre de Vignerons 2022 (Bordeaux Rosé).** A light and fresh wine whose red berry flavors and acidity are well in harmony. The wine is fruity and ready to drink. Well-Oiled Wine Company. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$15

## BORDEAUX RED WINES

**90** **Maison Bardet NV Dorwinion (Bordeaux).** One of the series of wines named after places in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, this wine is inspired by the preferred wine of the king of the

Elves that came from Dorwinion on the shores of the Rhûn sea. A smooth and rich blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, it is lightly structured and packed with black fruits. It is ready to drink. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$56

**89** **Château Cassagne 2022 (Bordeaux).** Packed with red fruits, the wine is rich and full. It has a smoky character alongside the acidity and balanced white fruits. The wine is worth aging and should be ready from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$13

**89** **Château la Petite Borie 2020 (Bordeaux).** This wine, from the Entre-deux-Mers region, has ripe spice and black fruit flavors. The wine's layers of fruit and acidity are paired with the tannins that give the wine structure. Drink the wine from 2025. Terra Firma USA Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**88** **Château de Parenchère 2021 L'Equilibriste (Bordeaux).** The wine is soft, fresh and immediately accessible. Its black fruits are rounded, bottled without sulfur. Drink this easy wine now. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$21

**88** **Château Grand Jean 2020 (Bordeaux).** Dominated by Merlot, this fat and juicy wine is ripe with blackberry fruits. It still has a layer of tannins that are softening. Drink from 2024. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**88** **La Petite Grange 2021 (Bordeaux).** This blend of Merlot and Cabernets is soft with juicy red berry fruits and acidity. The second wine of La Grange Clinet, it is fruity, lightly textured and with plenty of youthful acidity, the wine will be ready in 2024. Luneau USA Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**88** **Maison Bardet NV Numenor Hyarnustar (Bordeaux).** One of three wines in bold, round bottles is inspired by Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. The wine is named after the island of Numenor, whose southwest region of Hyarnustar is described as warm and fertile. It's a rich, chocolate and black fruit wine, densely textured and with a layer of juicy acidity at the end. The wine is ready to drink. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**87** **Château Grand Jean 2022 Le Veggie (Bordeaux).** This wine, full of black, juicy fruits, is balanced, fresh and lightly textured. The wine has a touch of spice and smokiness along with layers of acidity at the end. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$20

**87** **Château la Croix du Grand Jard 2021 (Bordeaux).** Simple and fruity wine with layers of tannins and black currant fruits, this is fresh and

lightly textured. It is developing quickly and will be ready from 2024. Z Wine Gallery Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$19

**87** **Château Vieux Manoir 2022 Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux).** A young, fruity wine with light tannins and the promise of rapid development. It is fresh, lightly smoky and already fully integrated. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$14

**87** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Emilion 2022 Les Rocs Nobles (Bordeaux).** A young and juicy wine with spice and layers of blackberry fruits. There are still plenty of tannins giving the acidity a base on which to shine. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$15

**86** **Château Bois de la Croix 2020 (Bordeaux).** A blend of 75% Merlot with Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is all black currant fruits and fresh acidity. Still a little young, the wine will be ready later in 2024. Boutique Wine Collection. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$15

**86** **Château de Parenchère 2022 L'Equilibriste (Bordeaux).** A juicy, fruity wine with ripe tannins and open black fruits. It is fresh and developing well. Drink from 2024. Winebow Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$21

**86** **Château Roquefort 2022 Les Roches Blanches Merlot (Bordeaux).** A firmly tannic wine, the fruit mingles with the wine's concentration. This juicy wine will be ready from 2024. Duclot La Vinicole. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

## BORDEAUX SUPÉRIEUR

**92** **Château de Parenchère 2020 Esprit de Parenchère (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Only produced in top years, the wine is rich and concentrated. While the alcohol is high, it doesn't show, leaving the stage to the black fruits and dense wood aging. New wood aging has polished the wine. Drink from 2025. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
abv: 15.5% Price: \$35

**92** **Château Roquefort 2019 Roquefortissime Grand Cuvée (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Aged for a year in wood, the wine is top of the range from this estate. The ripe Merlot gives concentrated black fruits, rich tannins and a powerful structure. It is maturing, and certainly needs further aging. It should be ready from 2025. DHI Selections. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$26

**91** **Château Haut-la Péreyre 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The Cailleux family estate, now

partially organic, has given us a balanced, smoky wine. Its ripe black fruits are still young, offering acidity and a succulent character. The wine is going to be ready from 2026. Vintage '59 Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**91 Château Tour Saint Paul 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Dominated by its 80% Merlot, this ripe wine has a solid structure and dense tannins. It is young still, the acidity and structure still needing time to soften. Drink this wine with its potential from 2025. Wine Source International. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

**90 Château Haut-la Péreyre 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This six-generation estate in the Entre-deux-Mers region has produced a richly structured wine. With a juicy backdrop and developing maturity, the wine is going to be ready from 2025. Vintage '59 Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

**90 Château l'Orangerie 2021 Premier Vin (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Situated just south of the town of Sauveterre-de-Guyenne, this estate has given a top wine that is ripe, full of black fruits. It also has a light touch of acidity and a juicy texture. Wood aging has given the wine a sheen. Drink from 2026. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

**90 Château Materre 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** With a touch of Malbec in the blend, this perfumed wine is ripe and full. The firm tannins of this young wine are a fine support and beginning for its development. Drink this balanced wine from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**90 Château Pascaud 2020 Réserve (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This estate in Entre-deux-Mers has produced a wood-aged wine that has balanced spice and black fruits. It is rich, full, structured and will certainly age. Drink from 2026. Europvin USA. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**90 Maison Raymond 2020 La Joly (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A big, fruity wine from the heart of the Entre-deux-Mers. It is almost all Cabernet Sauvignon, giving structure and fine black currant fruits. Ripe, still young, the wine will be ready from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Winc. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$38

**89 Château de Bonhoste 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Ripe with Merlot, this wine is generous and full. Its rich blackberry flavors are gently underlined by tannins and lifted by acidity. It is balanced and will be ready soon. Drink from 2025. T. Edward Wines Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$23

**89 Château du Grand Bern 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine is young, still solidly

structured. Its blackberry fruits are layered with acidity and spice. It is balanced, the smoky edge giving the wine complexity and richness. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**89 Château Grand Jean 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A smoky young wine, showing its wood aging. It has attractive black currant fruits and a structure from the Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend. Drink from 2026. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**89 Château Gréteau Médeville 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon with a fine addition of Cabernet Franc, this is balanced and full. It has a juicy character, contrasting well with the acidity and smoky aftertaste. Drink from 2024. Gravitass Wine Marketing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**89 Vignobles Gonfrier 2021 Marquis de Bern (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Rich tannins and juicy black fruits are supplemented by spice and structure. The wine is ripe, still chewy and needing to age. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$16

**88 Château de Benauges 2022 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This is firmly tannic and structured with solid tannins and rich black fruits. It is dry, dense and in need of aging. With spice and a juicy aftertaste, the wine is balanced and set to be ready to drink from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$19

**88 Château Grand Jean 2020 Cuvée GJ (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This superior cuvée is the product of selected fruit. It is a rich, dense wine, its blackberry flavors mixed with solid tannins promise further aging. Drink from 2025. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**88 Château l'Orangerie 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A spicy wine with young fruit and forward wood flavors that need to soften. It is ripe, with black currant flavors and acidity set against the tannins. Drink from the 2025. David Milligan Selections. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$18

**88 Château la Monde 2019 Cuvée Vieilles Vignes (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A rich, black-fruit-dominated wine, this is spicy and dense. Its acidity and tannins are now in balance, giving a dense wine that is ready to drink. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**88 Château le Gardera 2021 Bordeaux red blend (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A typical blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is still young with a generous structure and

texture. It is dense, its black fruits giving a fine balance to the wine's tannins. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**88 Château Rousset-Caillou 2021 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** This estate is in the heart of the rolling hills of Entre-deux-Mers. It has produced a balanced, rich and fruity wine that is developing well. Black fruits and soft tannins are at the heart of the wine. It will be ready from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**88 Hiatus 2019 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A ripe wine that is full of black currant fruits and acidity. That contrasts with the wine's structure, which needs to soften further. Drink the wine from 2024. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**88 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Emilion 2022 Champ de Fleuret (Bordeaux Supérieur).** A well-structured wine that has spice with light wood flavors. Blackberry flavors give freshness as a contrast to the wine's tannins. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**88 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Emilion 2022 Les Rocs du Barry (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine has tannins and rich fruit that of course are still young. Its blackberry flavors are full of both acidity and tannins. Give the wine plenty of time and drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**87 Château Laurence 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Dense, with a pepper edge from the alcohol, this a rich and spicy wine. It has layers of black fruits, acidity and smokiness. Drink from 2024. Pioneer Wine & Spirits of Louisiana. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**86 Château Julian 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** Aged for eight months in wood, this is a spicy wine that shows forward wood flavors that are somewhat enthusiastic. It either needs more time, or it was aged far too long in wood. Boutique Wine Collection. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**85 Château la Petite Prade 2020 (Bordeaux Supérieur).** The wine is juicy and fruity. It has a light texture along with acidity and a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$14

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## CÔTES DE BOURG

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**90 Château Plaisance 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** Black fruits, rich tannins and a dense texture are still young in this powerful wine. Concentration and full-bodied richness come from a wine



# BUYINGGUIDE

dominated by Merlot. Drink this solid wine from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**90 Closerie du Bal 2020 Grande Réserve (Côtes de Bourg).** This rich wine is full of black fruits and fine tannins to go with the wood aging. It is dense, juicy, spicy and full of promise. The wine still needs time and is likely to be ready to drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$19

**89 Château de Barbe 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** A rich, chocolate- and spice-flavored wine, this has dense tannins to go with the polished texture. Acidity and ripe blackberry fruits act as a contrast to the concentration of the wine. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25

**89 Château de Passedieu 2020 (Côtes de Bourg).** The wine has rich black fruits, dark in color from the Malbec in the blend. It is fully structured, ripe with tannins that are beginning to soften. This is a fine wine, solid and ready to age further. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

## BLAYE CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**90 Château Mayne Vallet 2020 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** A beautifully textured wine that has delicious black currant fruits and rich tannins. It has freshness as a contrast to the wine's richness. Drink from 2026. Gravitas Wine Marketing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

**90 Closerie du Bal 2020 Grande Réserve (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wood-aged wine's structure is still firmly in place. That means that black fruits and acidity are still developing with a fine promise. Drink the wine from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$19

**88 Château Chevalier des Brards 2020 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine has a rich texture and ripe tannins. Black fruits with a solid structure, spice and acidity at the end. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**88 Château Valentin 2018 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** With Malbec in the blend, typical of Blaye, the wine is rich and showing plenty of spicy tannins. With its structure and a firm core, it presents mature black fruits. Drink the wine now. Gravitas Wine Marketing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$15

**87 Château Grand Bertaud 2022 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** This dense, powerful wine has acidity and a juicy black fruit character. It still

has plenty of tannins that need to soften. Drink the wine from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$23

**86 Château la Rose Beaumont 2021 (Blaye Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is smoky with gentle tannins and spice as well as red fruits. It is structured with some dark chocolate flavors that need to dissipate. Drink from 2024. W. Direct. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

## FRONSAC

**92 Château Lamolière 2019 (Fronsac).** Merlot and Cabernet Franc give this wine its richness and spicy perfume. The wine has layers of acidity that bring out ripe tannins and a succulent character. The wine needs to develop further. Drink from 2025. Gravitas Wine Marketing. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**91 Château Beauséjour 2020 (Fronsac).** A rich, Merlot wine with some powerful tannins and ripe black fruits. It is a dense wine, concentrated with young acidity and a solid structure. Drink this fine wine from 2026. Heidelberg Distribution. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$16

**91 Château La Croix 2019 (Fronsac).** Almost mature, this wine is dense and finely concentrated. It is balanced, dominated by jammy Merlot and great rich black fruits. The wine, from vineyards around the hill of Fronsac, is likely to be ready from 2025. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**90 Château George 7 2019 (Fronsac).** This pure Merlot from the hill of Fronsac is rich while also well-structured. It has developed well but is still not ready. Its ripe black fruits are fragrant and forward. Drink from 2025. Flora & Fauna Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

## MÉDOC

**91 Château La Cardonne 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This wine comes from a large estate in the northern Médoc. It is a dense wine, balanced and with a fine future. The black currant flavors are matched by the tannins and the wine's elegant structure. Drink from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**90 Château d'Escurac 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** Situated on one of the high points of essential Médoc gravel, this estate has produced a finely balanced wine. Ripe tannins and black fruits give structure that is still young and agewor-

thy. With its potential, the wine will be ready from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$29

**90 Château Pontet Barrail 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** This blend, dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon, shows balanced tannins and juicy black fruits. It has a solid structure that supports the wine's attractive fruitiness. Drink this ripe wine from 2027. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**89 Château Labadie 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Médoc).** The old vines in this wine from a vineyard close to the Gironde estuary give it fine concentration. They also bring out bold black fruits and rich tannins. The wine is balanced, full of berry flavors and with potential. Drink from 2026. USA Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

## HAUT-MÉDOC

**92 Château de Malleret 2020 Le Baron de Malleret (Haut-Médoc).** A rich, full-bodied wine, dense and solid with tannins. Its blackberry fruits are now integrated with the wine's structure. The second wine of Château de Malleret in the southern Haut-Médoc will be ready from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$NA

**92 Château Lamothe-Cissac 2021 (Haut-Médoc).** This is a stylish wine. Its black fruits and elegant tannins are polished by wood to give fine fruitiness and balance. The wine comes from the northern Haut-Médoc and will be ready from 2026. Silver Lake Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$37

**91 Château Bel Air Gloria 2018 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** Made by the same team as Château Gloria, the wine has richness and a core of tannins that give the wine shape. It comes from Cussac just north of Saint-Estèphe. It is a powerful and dense wine, worth aging further. Drink from 2024. T. Elenteny Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**91 Château Grand Médoc 2019 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This juicy wine with its acidity and black fruits is almost mature. The wine's tannins are a solid backbone to the freshness of fruit. Drink from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$22

**91 Château Landat 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** This estate in the north of the Haut-Médoc region has produced a young, still tannic wine that needs aging. It has a ripe turn in its black fruits along with acidity. Drink the wine from 2026. Silver Lake Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$27

**91** **Château le Borderon 2015 (Haut-Médoc).** From a good vintage in Cissac in northern Haut-Médoc, the wine is now finely mature. It is rich while not heavy, ripe and full of black currant flavors, just hinting at secondary flavors. Drink this attractive wine now. Gravitass Wine Marketing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**90** **Château du Raux 2021 Cru Bourgeois (Haut-Médoc).** A blend of half and half Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, this wine comes from the heart of the Haut-Médoc, close to the 18th fortress of Fort de Vauban. It is a balanced, fruity wine, its black currant flavors integrated with the ripe tannins. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Château Fonsèche 2018 (Haut-Médoc).** With top consultant Eric Boissenot at the helm, the wine is structured and rich. Blackberry flavors and young tannins are still present, giving some aging potential. Drink from 2026. Silver Lake Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90** **Château Landat 2018 Vieilles Vignes (Haut-Médoc).** This dense wine is rich in black fruits and solid, spicy tannins. It has weight and a complex balance between fruit and structure. It is ready to drink but will be better from 2025. Silver Lake Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**89** **Château de Malleret 2021 Le Baron de Malleret (Haut-Médoc).** This second wine from cru bourgeois Malleret is still fruity with acidity and juicy black currant fruits. The wine from the estate in the southern Médoc is structured and firm, the tannins supporting the fine fruits. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89** **Château le Meynieu 2021 (Haut-Médoc).** With 60% Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, this is a structured wine, full of black currant fruits and ripe tannins. It has a succulent character, layering acidity in its texture. The wine should age further, so wait to drink until 2026. Vitis Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**89** **Château Réal 2019 (Haut-Médoc).** With a good proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is ripe and dense. The tannins and acidity are well-proportioned, giving a wine with acidity, fresh black fruits and some more solid structure. Drink from 2025. Gravitass Wine Marketing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Château la Tonnelle 2021 (Haut-Médoc).** A dense wine with tannins and black fruits in abundance, this is still young. Its dry core is solid and certainly needs aging. Drink the wine from 2025. Silver Lake Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## LUSSAC SAINT-ÉMILION

**93** **Château de Lussac 2020 (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** Dating back to the 19th century, this estate shows its pedigree in this still young, rich wine. It completes a trio of fine vintages from the producer, ripe with black fruits and still developing. Drink the wine from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91** **Château de Lussac 2018 (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** Now almost mature, this rich and structured wine is solid and dense. Its weight and alcohol show slightly in pepper flavors. This contrasts with succulent black fruits. The wine should age further. Drink now for freshness or from 2024. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**90** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 La Garenne (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** This is a rich and juicy wine that shows wood aging with a fine ripe smoothness. The wine is generous, backed by acidity and tannins. It will age well; drink from 2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 La Marzenac (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** The use of Cabernet Franc in the blend gives the wine its perfumed character and tannins. It has a rich depth and layers of firm tannins that will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Château Lagrange 2022 (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** Pure Merlot gives this young wine a richly fruity character. Spice and touches of tannin are dominated by the blackberry flavors. It is set for aging. Drink from 2027. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**89** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 Les Vieux Chênes (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** Ripe and juicy, the wine has layers of tannins and perfumed acidity. The wine is lightly oak aged with acidity and black plum ripeness. Drink from 2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Bonin Pichon 2022 (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** A ripe wine with red fruits and richness. It has spice with pepper flavors and acidity. The wine is developing quickly. Drink from 2026. Wine Circle Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 Grand Prince (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** This wood-aged wine is smooth with spice and rounded tannins. Black currant fruits give freshness as well as density. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 Haut la Lutotte (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** A ripe and fruity wine that is still very young. Its black currant fruits and acidity are backed by tannins and a firm structure that will allow the wine to age. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 Haut Pagaud (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** Dominated by Merlot and partially wood aged, the wine is rich and solid. Its blackberry flavors are fresh while the spice and tannins in the background give the wine its structure. Drink the wine from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2022 La Pruladière (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** The wood aging shows strongly through its tannins and black fruits. It is obviously young and the wine needs to integrate more. When that happens, the wine will be full-bodied and ripe. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**87** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émil-ion 2021 Vieux Remparts (Lussac Saint-Émil-ion).** The wine is ripe and spicy with a balance of acidity. Tannins and black fruits have already come together to underline the freshness that lies in the background. Drink from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## MONTAGNE-SAINT-ÉMILION

**93** **Château Franc Baudron 2022 Baudron (Montagne-Saint-Émil-ion).** This fine wine from vineyards east of Pomerol and north of Saint-Émil-ion is still young. It shows its potential in the rich tannins and solid structure, giving ripeness, dense, juicy black fruits a sense of power. It needs to age over several years. Drink from 2027. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**92** **Château Franc Baudron 2022 Mirande (Montagne-Saint-Émil-ion).** A blend of half Merlot and half old vine Cabernet Franc gives this wine its jammy character. With no added sulfur and foot treading in open vats, the wine has a concentrated texture and richness. Its fruit is young, forward and will propel the wine forward. Drink from 2027. Organic. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Vieux Château Goujon 2021 (Montagne-Saint-Émil-ion).** This 32-acre estate with its 30-year-old vines has yielded a richly structured wine with some powerful tannins that give it great weight. Drink this ripe wine from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Château Franc Baudron 2022 Authentique (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** The wine's young berry fruits are vibrant with the structure and texture of Cabernet Franc showing well. It has a juicy red fruit character that should develop well. Drink from 2026. Organic. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$21

**91 Château Franc Baudron 2019 Authentique (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** With ripe tannins that are now maturing and a rich texture, the wine is showing its quality. Black fruits and tannins are merging well into a coherent whole. The wine should soon be ready to drink. Wait until 2025. Organic. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**90 Château du Puy 2020 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** A ripe, smoky wine with blackberry fruits and rich tannins, this is set for aging. It has a juicy acidity that will help the wine as it matures. Drink from 2025. Wine Wine Situation. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**90 Château Franc Baudron 2020 Authentique (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** Low in sulfur, the wine is a blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Smoky aromas and spice come from the ripe black fruits and dense tannins. The wine needs to age; drink from 2025. Organic. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**90 Château Franc Baudron 2020 L'Audacieux (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** This young wine carries solid tannins and concentration from old vines. Black currant fruit and acidity are balanced with smoky flavors and a fine potential. Drink from 2026. Organic. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$52

**90 Château la Bergère 2022 (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** Ripe black fruits with a fine juicy streak give this wine its balance and potential richness. It is a ripe wine, still young, with a good future. Drink from 2027. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2022 Peraclos (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** Aged for a year in wood, this ripe wine comes with rich tannins and spice. Under its polished surface, the wine has structure that will allow it to age. Drink from 2026. Tri-Vin Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**88 Château Franc Baudron 2021 Authentique (Montagne-Saint-Émilion).** A stalky textured wine, the 70% Merlot shows a fresh side with light tannins. The wine's acidity gives a freshness to the juiciness. Drink later this year. Organic. Rooted Selections LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

## SAINT-ÉMILION

**93 Château de l'Annonciation 2021 (Saint-Émilion).** The blend of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc is melding well in this young wine. Tannins and spicy black fruits are to the fore with this structured, solid wine. The wood aging will stand the wine well as it matures. Drink from 2027. DHI Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**92 Château Coutet 2021 (Saint-Émilion).** This rich, still young wine, from vines on the Mazerat hill, is full of blackberry fruits. There is a strong layer of acidity that gives the wine a strong contrast with the firm tannins. Drink this wine from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**92 Château de Lescours 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** A richly wood-aged wine with ripe tannins and a fine balance between Merlot and the two Cabernets. From an estate near the Dordogne river, it is a solidly based wine that will age further. Drink from 2025. David Milligan Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$48

**92 Château Haut Gravet 2019 Grand Chemin (Saint-Émilion).** A rich wine, this comes from a parcel of old vines. Its density is balanced by ripe berries and layers of acidity and concentration. It is a fine wine, balanced and still developing. Drink from 2025. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**92 Château Milandre 2021 (Saint-Émilion).** The wine is rich and full in the mouth, although it also has a lighter touch from the vintage. Berry fruits and generous tannins are melding together into a wine that will age well. Drink from 2026. French Wine USA. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

**92 Château Sansonnet 2020 Envol (Saint-Émilion).** The wine is definitely young. Its tannins still give a smoky character alongside the ripe black fruit flavors. The well-judged 16 months in wood have boosted the fruit and given the wine a fine future. Drink from 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**92 Château Sansonnet 2019 Envol (Saint-Émilion).** Long-term wood aging has given this ripe wine its concentration and smoothed out its tannins. A blend of 60% Cabernet and 40% Merlot is finely balanced with succulent spice and acidity. The wine will certainly age further, so drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**91 Château Franc Patarabet 2015 Cuvée Léopold (Saint-Émilion).** This pure Merlot wine, wood aged with rich black fruits, is ripe, dense and still impressively full of potential. There is a juicy acidity to the wine, the black currant flavors giving

the wine the material for any further development. The wine is certainly ready to drink, but will age further. Jeff Welburn Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Château Lalande de Gravet 2020 (Saint-Émilion).** Merlot and the two Cabernets come satisfactorily together in this ripe-black-fruit-flavored wine. Spice from wood aging is lifted by acidity, giving a wine that will age. Drink from 2026. Serge Doré Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$65

**90 Château Franc Patarabet 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** A structured wine from a nine-acre estate, it has rich tannins and spicy black fruits from the blend of juicy Merlot and perfumed Cabernet Franc. They have combined well in a ripe, full wine that still has potential. Drink from 2025. Jeff Welburn Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Château Haut Boutisse 2021 Cuvée Origine (Saint-Émilion).** Rich in Merlot, this wine is fruity with a layer of firm tannins. It has a good future that will bring together acidity, jammy black plums and a core of dryness. Drink from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Château Pontet-Fumet 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** A rich wine with layers of firm tannins and concentration. Dark chocolate flavors mingle with jammy black fruits from Merlot and solid tannins. The wine's richness gives it weight and density. Drink from 2025. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Maison Bardet 2016 Selection La Famille Bardet (Saint-Émilion).** With a fine touch of Cabernet Franc, this is a perfumed, ripe wine. It has generous black fruits that still have plenty of freshness. With a juicy aftertaste, the wine is ready to drink but could well age further, at least until 2027. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**89 Château Franc le Maine 2018 (Saint-Émilion).** The good proportion of 39% Cabernet Franc gives this wine a spicy, smoky character. It has richness and is almost mature. Succulent acidity shows strongly with a fine lift at the end. Drink now. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**89 Château Haut Veyrac 2021 Les Sens de Lisse (Saint-Émilion).** This cuvée from Haut Veyrac is balanced with spice and wood flavors in the background. Its juicy character brings out the acidity of this smoky wine. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**89 Château Haut Veyrac 2021 Versus (Saint-Émilion).** Made without added sulfur, the wine is bright with red fruits and jammy flavors.



It is juicy and full of spice from wood aging. Drink from 2025. Grand Dejeuner Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**89 Vignobles Bardet Maison Bardet 2020 Soeurette (Saint-Émilion).** Soeurette, little sister, is a rounded, soft wine. Its ripe tannins and generous black fruits are warm with a solid structure. Drink the wine from 2025. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88 Château du Val d'Or 2019 (Saint-Émilion).** This blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc is ripe, juicy and polished. Its tannins are now fully integrated giving a rich wine. The structure is solid with final juicy acidity. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**88 Vignobles Bardet Maison Bardet 2020 La Causette (Saint-Émilion).** Ripe and jammy, this full, rich wine layers black fruits and tannins that are still youthful. The juicy acidity and structure, still in evidence, will soften, giving a rounded wine from 2025. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**87 Château Franc le Maine 2017 (Saint-Émilion).** This is a light, juicy wine that has fresh, berry fruits with acidity and a light texture. The wine, bottled without sulfur, is ready to drink. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## POMEROL

**93 Château la Garenne 2020 (Pomerol).** Packed with youthful tannins and black fruits, this is a concentrated wine. Structured and with a dry core, it is still a work in progress. The future is good. As the wine softens, it will show intense black fruits alongside the richness. Drink from 2027. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

**93 Château la Garenne 2018 (Pomerol).** Rich chocolatey black fruits come from the dense Merlot in the blend of this wine. It is ripe, full of tannins that have been cushioned by the full fruitiness. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Château la Truffe 2021 (Pomerol).** This ripe wine comes from a small estate in Pomerol situated on a terrace above the River l'Isle. Mainly Merlot, it is wood aged while preserving its rich fruity character. Its acidity will allow it to age well. Drink from 2027. Serge Doré Selections. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**93 Château Lafleur du Roy 2020 Les Lavandières (Pomerol).** Aged in wood for 15 months, the wine, from the western side of Pomerol, is full of spice and powerful Merlot. Aromatic and polished, the powerful, dense wine is juicy and smoky with

black currant fruits. Drink from 2026. MHW, Ltd. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**93 Château Lécuyer 2021 (Pomerol).** From a seven-acre vineyard, this wine is rich, balanced and fruity. It has an elegance and freshness reflecting the vintage. The wine, from 40-year-old vines, is packed with black fruits and ripe tannins. Drink from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$120

**92 Château la Garenne 2019 (Pomerol).** Still young, the wine's tannins play with the black fruits in a rich medley. It is a spicy, dense wine, a concentrated texture and developing acidity. The wine should be ready from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$45

## LALANDE DE POMEROL

**92 Château Perron 2019 (Lalande de Pomerol).** Bold tannins and layers of black fruits come through strongly in this impressive Merlot-dominated wine. It has a dense, still young texture that will develop well. Drink this promising, structured wine from 2025. Free Run LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**91 Château la Croix Blanche 2020 Les Terrasses Brunès (Lalande de Pomerol).** A dark-hued wine from north of Pomerol, this has rich tannins that are concentrated. It has a juicy character that brings out the blackberry fruits. Drink the wood-aged wine from 2025. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Château Pierrefitte 2021 Cuvée de Malte (Lalande de Pomerol).** This is a smoky, wood-laden wine. Its berry fruits, blackberries and black plums are still submerged by the wood. With time, this will balance out. Drink from 2026. Luxco. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**91 Clos l'Hermitage 2021 (Lalande de Pomerol).** The richness of this wine comes from the ripe black fruits, dominated by Merlot. It's a young wine with red fruits giving density and acidity. The tannins are still firm, giving potential. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Château Bel Rose 2022 (Lalande de Pomerol).** While the wine is young, it is already complete and fully formed. Its concentration and black fruits are rich and powerful. The wine's acidity gives it a fine lift at the end. Drink from 2026. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

## MARGAUX

**94 Château Bellevue de Tayac 2021 (Margaux).** Owned by the Fabre family and produced at the estate's modernistic steel and mirrors winery in the village of Tayac, this is a rich young wine. Its fruits and tannins combine to reflect the year in their softness while promising plenty of aging. It's a fine wine, ready from 2026. Silver Lake Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**93 Château du Courneau 2020 (Margaux).** A ripe and juicy wine that comes from a 37-acre estate in the north of the Margaux appellation, it is full of still young tannins with acidity that gives the wine freshness. It all needs to soften into the rich texture that will develop as it matures. Drink from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Château Prieuré-Lichine 2021 Confidences de Prieuré-Lichine (Margaux).** The second wine from Château Prieuré-Lichine in southern Margaux's Cantenac, this is rich and solid with elegance. Black currant fruits and acidity bring a fresh edge to this attractive, balanced wine. Drink from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**92 Château de la Coste 2020 (Margaux).** There is an attractive 5% Petit Verdot in this blend that gives the wine weight and color. It is spicy, rich, the wood aging integrated with the wine's freshness and elegance. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$44

**92 Château Tayac 2020 Cuvée Nicolas (Margaux).** This wine, rich and smooth, comes from the north of the Margaux appellation. It has dense black fruits with some solid tannins to back it up. The wine's ripeness and balance are well judged. Drink from 2026. Gravitas Wine Marketing. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**91 Château de la Coste 2019 (Margaux).** This Cabernet Sauvignon-dominated wine is richly full-bodied. Wood aging for a year has given the wine density and polish. The black fruits, lifted by acidity, give a juicy aftertaste that brings together this ageworthy wine. Drink from 2025. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Château la Tour de Bessan 2020 La Petite Tour de Bessan (Margaux).** The second wine of this Lurton family-owned estate is ripe, succulent with an elegant core of tannins and black currant fruits. As befits a second wine, it is developing well and quickly. Drink from 2025. Vignobles Marie-Laure Lurton. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

## CADILLAC CÔTES DE BORDEAUX

**91** **Château Baracan 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This estate in the hills just behind the river city of Cadillac has produced a generous wine, blackberry fruits and spice from wood aging already in harmony. It is set for aging. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**91** **Château Langoiran 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is young, rich in black fruits and balanced acidity. It comes from vineyards on the slopes of the 13th-century Langorian château, a historic monument. The derelict castle above the Garonne river was bought in 1972 by the Bibonne family and is maintained by the Amis du Château. It is dense and, like the château, likely to age well. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$21

**90** **Château de Lyde 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** A stylish wine from the Cadillac region, this is structured and dense. Its ripe tannins and black fruits have plenty of potential. With the blend of Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is fruity while also dense and structured. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90** **Château Grimont 2022 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Mainly Merlot, this ripe, rounded wine is structured with acidity and black currant flavors. Tannins and spice give the wine a backbone and aging potential. Drink from 2025. Milton's Distributing Co., Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**89** **Château de Marsan 2021 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** This blend of 70% Merlot and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon is dense and rich, although with a touch of acidity typical of this vintage. It has spice and plenty of wood flavors that indicate its youth. Drink this juicy wine from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88** **Château Luchey 2022 (Cadillac Côtes de Bordeaux).** Of course, this wine is young. But it has the makings of fine richness and some aging potential. Black fruits and a succulent texture go along with the layers of tannins and jammy Merlot. Drink from 2026. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

## OTHER RED WINES

**93** **Château Cos Labory 2020 Charme de Cos Labory (Saint-Estèphe).** The second wine of the top Saint-Estèphe estate, the wine is structured with tannins and black fruits that are a fine reflection of the Grand Vin. It is stylish with acidity and a developing balance of fruit and structure. Drink

from 2026. Château Cos Labory. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**93** **Château Gloria 2019 Esprit de Gloria (Saint-Julien).** The second wine of Château Gloria, this shows some of the same richness and style as the top wine. It is a dense wine with a fine balance between succulent acidity and elegant black currant fruits. Drink this wine from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Château Picque Caillou 2021 (Pessac-Léognan).** While this wine is still young, it has all the makings of fine richness. From vineyards surrounded by the suburbs of Bordeaux city, it has acidity along with blackberry flavors and pure fruitiness that balance the tannins. Drink this structured wine from 2026. Aquitaine Wine Company. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**92** **Château Artigues 2020 (Pauillac).** This small estate in Pauillac has produced a true Cabernet Sauvignon wine. Its black currant fruits and firm tannins are full of potential. Drink this balanced wine from 2027. Wineberry America LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**92** **Château Sirène 2021 (Saint-Julien).** An elegant wine rich in both fruits and tannins, this comes from the same team as Château du Glana. Juicy black currant fruits are combined with acidity and ripeness. Drink this ageable wine from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**91** **Château Lavillotte 2021 (Saint-Estèphe).** With its fine layer of tannins and stylish black fruits, this is a wine with a fine future. Acidity and blackberry fruits come through in the blend of Merlot with the two Cabernets. Drink the wine from 2027. Vitis Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**91** **Château Macquin St Georges 2020 (Saint-Georges-Saint-Émilion).** With its ripe blend dominated by Merlot, this is a rich wine. Wood aging flavors show against the wine's fruits and need to soften. When fully aged, the wine will be full, dense and balanced with fruit and tannins. Drink from 2026. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Blason de Montbelly 2020 (Pessac-Léognan).** There is a good balance between acidity and ripe tannins in this wine. They are tied together by black fruits that give weight and ripe character. Drink from 2025. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Château Cantelaudette 2019 Réserve Margaux Chatelier (Graves de Vayres).** This ripe

and smoky wine has a powerful structure along with tannins and an edge of pepper. Its succulent character has to develop further and the black fruits come forward through the structure. Drink from 2025. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**90** **Maison Bardet 2016 Lideyre (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** The wine is structured with some solid tannins and rich berry fruits. It has a fine, juicy character that is dense and now mature. The wine's ripeness and concentration contrast with a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**89** **Château Cantelaudette 2020 5 Cépages Margaux Chatelier (Graves de Vayres).** Vinified without added sulfur, the wine is rich and concentrated. A blend of Merlot, Malbec, Cabernets Franc and Sauvignon and Petit Verdot (the five cépages), this is inevitably a complex wine. Acidity and juicy black fruits are ready to develop further. Drink from 2025. Polaner Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**89** **Les Chais de Rions 2020 Fleur de Bern Cuvée Prestige (Graves).** This is a ripe, warm wine with soft tannins. Its black fruits and youthful texture promise potential. The wine has a rich aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Misa Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2022 Faret (Côtes de Bordeaux).** With a year in wood, the wine is ripe and smooth. It is of course young, but its black fruits and rich tannins are already showing plenty of aging ability. Drink this juicy wine from 2027. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88** **Château Tourtirac 2020 (Castillon Côtes de Bordeaux).** A solid wine, this is packed with both tannins and black fruits and has a smoky finish. It is full-bodied, needing aging, and with plenty of potential. Drink this rich wine from 2025. Grape Expectations (CA). **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Château de Pic 2022 (Côtes de Bordeaux).** A young, rich wine that has a fine future. Densely textured, the wine is full of black currant fruits and balanced acidity. Drink the wine from 2026. Misa Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**87** **Vignerons de Puisseguin Lussac Saint-Émilion 2021 Esprit de Puisseguin (Puisseguin Saint-Émilion).** With a majority of Merlot, the wine is juicy with black fruits and light tannins. It has young blackberry fruits that are fresh and spicy. Drink the wine from 2026. T. Elenteny Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE WHITE WINES

### JURANÇON SEC

**92 Henri Ramonteu 2021 Floreya Sec (Jurançon Sec).** A richly perfumed wine, this is dense and concentrated. A blend of Gros Manseng and Camaralet, it has a touches of honey and contrasting intense acidity. This wine needs to age further; drink from 2025. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**91 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2022 Clos Cancaillaü Au Lavoir (Jurançon Sec).** Made from Petit Manseng, this dry wine inevitably has a feeling of repressed sweetness with a touch of honey and lemon flavors. They are set against mango flavors, giving a rich result. Drink from 2025. Swiss Cellars. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2022 Clos de la Vierge Le Carré de Peés (Jurançon Sec).** Like most dry Jurançon, made predominantly from the two Manseng varieties, this is a rich wine. Spice and acidity are set around ripe white fruits, lightly peppery and with a touch of honey. Drink this dry wine from later this year. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

### JURANÇON

**94 Henri Ramonteu 2020 Floreya Moelleux (Jurançon).** Petit Manseng weaves its magic in this wine. Bringing together honey, concentrated sweetness and considerable acidity, it is full of tropical fruit flavors, mango and apricot. The wine will certainly age further; drink now or from 2027. Baron Francois Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**93 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2016 Foehn (Jurançon).** A blend of 60% Petit Manseng and 40% Gros Manseng, this intense and sweet wine shows fine tropical fruits. Its acidity is concentrated with lightness as a contrast. Drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2016 Clos Cancaillaü Le Dernier Carré (Jurançon).** This is a wonderful, ripe and mature wine. Its honey and mango juice flavors are rich and beautifully ripe. There is a light touch that emphasizes acidity that keeps it fresh. Drink this wine now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

### CÔTES DU LOT

**88 Château Laur 2021 Paradoxe de Malbec (Côtes du Lot).** This Malbec is, unusually, a white wine. It was vinified with just the white juice

of the fruit without taking color from the deep red skins. It is fresh and rounded with creamy acidity and red apple fruits. Drink the wine now. La Cigale Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## SOUTHWEST FRANCE RED WINES

**92 Domaine Berthoumieu 2021 Constance (Madiran).** While Tannat is in the majority in this wine, Cabernets and the local Pinenc varieties are also in the mix. The result is a rich, dense wine, full of black fruits and spicy tannins. It is still structured and with a firm core that needs to soften. The family firm in the central Madiran town of Viella has given a wine that needs to age. Drink from 2026. Vintage Imports, Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**90 Château Laur 2021 Vieilles Vignes (Cahors).** A solid Malbec from old vines, is rich in tannins and in black fruits. The wine is young, its structure fully on display. As it ages, this firmness will soften well to give a ripe, balanced wine. Drink from 2026. La Cigale Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**88 Lionel Osmin & Cie 2022 Fer de Soif (Marcillac).** Marcillac is a small appellation in the western foothills of the Massif Central. This wine, made from the appellation's signature variety, is full of attractive red fruits and light tannins. It is all fruit, no wood aging, fresh and fruity, ready to drink now. Vintage Imports, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

## VIN DE FRANCE RED WINES

**87 Domaine Thet 2020 Rouge (Vin de France).** This is a light, smoky wine with red fruit acidity. The wine's tannins are soft, textured with acidity. Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon are the blend, fruity with cherries and balancing freshness. Drink now. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$36

**87 Maison Bardet NV The Shire (Vin de France).** A light and fruity Pinot Noir, the wine is one of three inspired by Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Named after the Shire, home of the Hobbits and likened to a southern English landscape, the wine is cherry fresh and juicy. It has the lightest of tannins and is ready to drink. RBE Drinks. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

## OTHER FRENCH WINES WHITE WINES

**88 Domaine Grains d'Estuaire 2022 Cuvée Emma (Charentais).** A lightly wood-aged wine, this is ripe and rich. The wine has a smooth, generous texture that brings out tropical fruits and warm acidity. Drink the wine now from 2024. Acorvina & Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**86 La Petite Place 2022 (Atlantique).** Light and fruity, this is crisp, bright and full of lemon and green apple fruit flavors. It is a lively wine that is ready to drink. Wineberry America LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

**86 Terre de Vignerons 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Atlantique).** Sauvignon Blanc and Colombard give a wine that is grassy and herbal. It has great freshness and acidity. Drink now. Well-Oiled Wine Company. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**85 Domaine Grains d'Estuaire 2022 Grains de Cocotte (Charentais).** This blend of Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc is soft and light with a tangy background. The wine is fresh and fruity, ready to drink. 17th Street Distributing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12

## OTHER FRENCH WINES ROSÉ WINE

**85 La Petite Place 2022 Rosé (Atlantique).** With caramel aromas, this wine shows its Merlot dominance. On the palate, it has a fresh character, red berries and a touch of spice along with the grapefruit aftertaste. Drink now. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER FRENCH WINES RED WINES

**88 Vignobles Gonfrier 2022 Mon Arc (Atlantique).** From a 2.5-acre, no-chemicals experimental vineyard, this Monarch variety is the result of a German cross of Merzling and Dornfelder. The result is a deep-colored oak-aged wine. It is rich and balanced, fruity and lightly structured. Drink now. Organic. Wineberry America LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$19

**87 Domaine Grains d'Estuaire 2021 Grains de Cocotte (Charentais).** A blend of Merlot and Cabernet from the Cognac region of Charentes, this is light and fruity with black currant crispness. Drink now. 17th Street Distributing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$12



# BUYINGGUIDE

**86** **Domaine Grains d'Estuaire 2021 Cuvée Emma (Charentais).** This is a smooth, ripe wine from vines grown near the north side of the Gironde estuary, in the Charente. It has a lightly smoky character and attractive spice. Drink now. Organic. Acorvina & Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

## SPAIN WHITE WINES CAVA

**94** **Agustí Torelló Mata 2015 KRIPTA Brut Nature Gran Reserva (Cava).** A steady column of bubbles releases a bouquet of Granny Smith apple and buttered croissant. It spreads across the palate with bold effervescence and Fuji apple, Seckel pear, toasted almond and brioche flavors. Soft floral notes linger into the finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**94** **Agustí Torelló Mata 2014 KRIPTA Brut Nature Gran Reserva (Cava).** With persistent perlage and a light straw color, this Cava has a nose of Gala apple, green pear and vanilla. A note of baking bread opens on the taste buds, joined by well-integrated acidity and flavors of peach pie, lemon curd and salted almonds. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$95

**94** **Agustí Torelló Mata 2013 KRIPTA Brut Nature Gran Reserva (Cava).** Deep golden yellow to the eye, this sparkling wine offers a stream of tiny bubbles and aromas of quince, brioche and saddle leather. Brioche transitions to the palate alongside butterscotch, slivered almond, green apple, pineapple and saline notes with a touch of crumbled sage. This wine has a savory, Sherry-like quality that shines through on the finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**93** **Agustí Torelló Mata 2016 Brut Nature Gran Reserva (Cava).** Medium straw in color and with light effervescence, this sparkler has aromas of Bartlett pear, rising pizza dough, toasted almond and lemon zest. Vivid green apple and white peach flavors mingle with notes of vanilla, cashew, orange zest and orange blossom. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

## COSTERS DEL SEGRE

**91** **Castell del Remei 2021 Oda (Costers del Segre).** This light straw-colored wine has a nose of green apple, Seckel pear and hazelnut. It is full in the mouth and has apple pie, apricot, orange blossom and mint leaf flavors. The enduring finish offers a whiff of saline. Bottle Diplomacy. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90** **Castell del Remei 2021 Gotim Blanc (Costers del Segre).** Light gold in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of Bosc pear, river rocks and jasmine. It is full-textured and has Granny Smith apple, white peach, honeysuckle and marzipan flavors with a touch of saltiness on the finish. Bottle Diplomacy. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

## RIOJA

**94** **Alberto Orte 2018 Sierra de la Demanda (Rioja).** This delicious white wine is a blend of 70% Viura and 30% Garnacha Blanca. It has enticing aromas of mango, guava and white flowers. In the mouth there are flavors of tropical fruits, lemon lime and Mandarin orange pith with a crisp and clean finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**94** **Marqués de Murrieta 2016 Capellanía (Rioja).** This light yellow-colored wine has a bouquet of yuzu, butterscotch and lemongrass. Pineapple, mango, vanilla bean, eucalyptus and toffee flavors are set into a full-textured wine whose vivid acidity washes over the palate and lingers. Maisons Marques & Domaines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Muga 2022 (Rioja).** A bouquet of pineapple, lemon blossom and nutmeg prepares the palate for mango, cantaloupe and vanilla flavors with a light floral lift. The vivid finish offers a splash of tangerine zest. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**92** **Puente del Ea 2020 Obar (Rioja).** Aromas of peach, dried apricot and almond set the stage for nectarine, Granny Smith apple, dried thyme and jasmine flavors. Vivid acidity, good mouthfeel and a hint of croissant on the finish make for a pleasing pour. Vinaio Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**91** **Rioja Vega 2022 Garnacha Blanca y Tempranillo Blanco (Rioja).** This tasty white wine is a blend of Garnacha Blanca and Tempranillo Blanca. It is straw-colored with aromas of lemon pith, grapefruit juice and white flowers. In the mouth there are flavors of citrus fruits, Fuji apple and Anjou pear all before the zesty finish. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89** **Bodegas Riojanas 2022 Monte Real Blanco Fermentado En Barrica (Rioja).** This light straw-colored wine has aromas of peach, Fuji apple and orange blossom. It is bright at first sip and features pineapple and grapefruit flavors with soft notes of fennel pollen and vanilla bean that endure on the palate. Bodegas Riojanas. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87** **Ramirez de la Piscina 2022 Estate Bottled White (Rioja).** This light-hued white blend from Rioja has aromas of Seckel pear, nectarine and jasmine. It is soft on entry and offers Granny Smith

apple, apricot, cocoa butter and mint leaf flavors. The vivid finish offers a note of rose petal. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**86** **Marqués de Cáceres 2021 Satinela Semi-Dulce (Rioja).** Aromas of ripe nectarine, orange marmalade and rose petal lead to flavors of peach pie, apricot preserves, white chocolate and orange blossom. This has a nice level of acidity to balance out its sweetness. Vineyard Brands. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$13

## RÍAS BAIXAS

**94** **Forjas del Salnés 2021 Cos Pés Vino Blanco (Rías Baixas).** Golden yellow to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of yuzu, fresh sage and saline. It is full-textured with flavors of peach jam, caramelized pineapple, rose water, dried mountain-side herbs and oyster shell. Peach and saline notes endure on the palate. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**94** **Granbazán 2022 Etiqueta Verde Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of ripe summer peach, lemon zest, wet river rocks and honeysuckle waft from the glass. This wine is full in the mouth and has brilliant acidity. It offers flavors of orange marmalade, peach pie, lemon, and dried herbs de Provence. Europvin USA. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**94** **Rodrigo Mendez & Alberto Orte 2021 Muti (Rías Baixas).** Almost clear to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of Fuji apple, clementine and jasmine. A soft floral note carries over to the palate and is met with flavors of white peach, Turkish delight and a hint of dried rosemary and thyme that linger in the mouth. Olé & Obrigado. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$44

**93** **Altos de Torona 2022 Torre de Ermelo Albariño (Rías Baixas).** A bouquet of lemon-lime, passion fruit and orange blossom leads the way for flavors of mango, bergamot, caramelized pineapple and nutmeg. This wine has a sense of weight on the palate that is well-matched by dazzling acidity. W. Direct. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**92** **Adegas Tollodouro 2022 Blanquito (Rías Baixas).** This pale straw-colored wine has aromas of pineapple, yellow currant and dried thyme. It is bright in the mouth, offering grapefruit, lemon zest, jasmine and sage leaf flavors that culminate in a vivid finish. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**92** **Faustino Rivero Ulecia 2022 Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Pale golden yellow in the glass, this wine has a nose of peach, dried apricot and rose petal. It is full in the mouth and has flavors of passion fruit, yuzu, lemongrass, orange blossom and

a touch of salinity on the radiant finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Marqués de Vizhoja 2021 Señor da Folla Verde Condado do Tea (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of tangerine, Bartlett pear and freshly chopped parsley transition seamlessly to the palate, which also reveals flavors of apricot preserves and orange blossom. The pleasing finish is infused with evenly matched floral and citrus notes. Alt Wines. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Rectoral do Umia 2022 Miudiño Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Light straw to the eye, this wine offers a bouquet of apricot, clementine and flint. Flavors of peach, lemon, grapefruit, sage leaf and Turkish delight are wrapped in a nicely textured wine with well-moderated acidity. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**92** **Terras Gauda 2022 Abadía de San Campio Albariño (Rías Baixas).** For full review see page 25. Trinchero Family Estates. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**91** **Torres 2020 Pazo Torre Penelas Blanco Granito Albariño (Rías Baixas).** Peach, mango and nutmeg aromas emanate from the glass. Flavors of nectarine, apricot, grapefruit, dried sage and white truffle wash across the palate and evaporate into a savory yet brilliant finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Marqués de Vizhoja 2022 Torre la Moreira (Rías Baixas).** Aromas of grapefruit, honeysuckle and dried thyme set the scene for peach, apricot, rose petal and lemon zest flavors. Full-textured and with good acidity, this is a nice pour. Alt Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

## BIERZO

**94** **Soto del Vicario 2021 Go de Godello Cuveé Especial (Bierzo).** A bouquet of nectarine and yuzu with a hint of lemongrass sets the scene for cantaloupe, pineapple, nectarine, honeysuckle and butterscotch flavors. This full-textured wine offers a delightfully vivid finish marked with a hint of lemon zest. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Estefania 2022 Tilenus Monteseiros Godello (Bierzo).** Medium straw in color, this wine has a nose of honeydew melon, rose petal and ripe summer peach. Acidity makes its mark on entry and is joined by tangerine, grapefruit, almond toffee and jasmine flavors that evaporate into a floral-strewn finish. Massanois Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

**92** **Godelia 2022 Godello (Bierzo).** This medium straw-colored wine exhibits aromas of

peach, Golden Delicious apple, lemon zest and thyme. Passion fruit, green apple, orange blossom, sage and flint flavors are set into a well-textured wine with gorgeously integrated acidity. A note of bergamot flower adds a flavorful layer to the brilliant finish. Europvin USA. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## RUEDA

**91** **Valdehermoso 2022 Lagar del Rey Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda).** This pale yellow wine has aromas of peach, tangerine and jasmine. It is full in the mouth, with nectarine, Bartlett pear, rose petal and dried sage leaf flavors. Lingering rose notes and brilliant acidity make for a gorgeous finish. Misa Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**89** **Naia 2022 K-Naia (Rueda).** Aromas of Granny Smith apple and lemon zest prep the palate for apricot, passion fruit, vanilla and marzipan flavors. The vivid finish is marked with a note of grapefruit pith. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Emina 2022 S Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda).** A bouquet of lemon-lime and rose petal sets the stage for flavors of passion fruit, mango, orange blossom and a touch of hazelnut. The bright finish offers a pleasant infusion of florality. Solera Imports. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Naia 2022 S-Naia (Rueda).** Light yellow in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of toasted pineapple, lemon zest, and fresh parsley. Cantaloupe, white peach, rose petal and clementine flavors race toward a vivid finish that leaves traces of citrus on the tongue and gums. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Naia 2022 Las Brisas (Rueda).** Pale straw to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of jasmine, grapefruit and slivered almonds. Bold acidity makes its presence known at first sip alongside flavors of mandarin orange, yuzu and a persistent note of rose petal. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87** **Pagos del Rey 2022 Blume Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda).** Almost clear to the eye, this wine has aromas of peach, grapefruit and chopped basil. Apricot and Valencia orange notes open on the palate and are joined by notes of dried thyme and honeysuckle. Floral and citrus notes stick around long after the last sip. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**86** **Naia 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Rueda).** This light straw-colored wine has a nose of honeydew melon, lime and freshly chopped green herbs. Gala apple, nectarine and jasmine flavors

wind down to a floral-strewn finish. Aviva Vino. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## BINISALEM-MALLORCA

**94** **Ca'n Verdura Viticultors 2021 Viticultura en Miniatura Ca Ses Rosetes (Binissalem-Mallorca).** This golden yellow wine has aromas of Bartlett pear, jasmine and smoke. It offers a full mouthfeel that plays backup for peach, dried apricot, smoked sea salt and dried thyme and tarragon flavors that evaporate into juicy, nectarine-infused finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Ca'n Verdura Viticultors 2021 Viticultura en Miniatura Supernova Blanc Moll (Binissalem-Mallorca).** Pale straw in the glass, this wine made from an indigenous Mallorcan grape has a nose of cassava melon, lemon zest and marzipan. It is a full-bodied white wine with white peach, pineapple, honeysuckle and slivered almond flavors. There are touches of aniseed and saline on the brilliant finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$33

## VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN

**93** **Marqués de Riscal 2021 Baron De Chirel (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This light straw-colored wine has a bouquet of Bartlett pear, passion fruit and vanilla bean. Flavors of caramelized pineapple, honeydew melon, vanilla and honeysuckle mingle with vivid acidity and robust viscosity that linger on the palate. Shaw-Ross International Importers. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$43

**92** **Alvarez de Toledo 2021 (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This pale yellow-colored wine offers a bouquet of Gala apple, apricot and grated ginger. It is full in the mouth and has flavors of carambola, mango, rose petal, aniseed and dried thyme. The vivid finish is marked with a splash of toasted pineapple. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$21

**92** **Vinos de Arganza 2022 Viña Século Godello (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla y León).** This light yellow wine proffers a bouquet of peach, Fuji apple and dried marjoram. This wine is full on the palate, with vivid acidity and flavors of star fruit, bergamot, butterscotch and herbs de Provence. Soft notes of crumbled sage and lavender linger on the palate. W. Direct. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$27

## VINO DE LA TIERRA DE CASTILLA

**87** **Dominio de Eguren 2021 Protocolo Blanco (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** A bouquet of pineapple, Seckel pear and slivered almond leads the way for flavors of honeydew melon, passion fruit and dried thyme. A splash of tangerine livens up the finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Radio Boka 2022 Verdejo (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Aromas of Valencia orange and pineapple lead the way for carambola, clementine and lemon-lime flavors. This wine is bright from the very first sip, and it offers a touch of rose petal on the zesty finish. MHW, Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94** **Alberto Orte 2020 Escalada do Sil (Valdeorras).** Light golden yellow in the glass, this wine has aromas of peach, apricot and flint with a light whiff of clove. Bartlett pear and nectarine flavors are set into a full-textured wine that is infused with notes of slivered almond, vanilla bean and river rocks. Bold acidity cleanses the palate with each sip and lingers into a clean finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**94** **Vizcarra 2020 Alejandra Old Vines (Ribera del Duero).** The scent of nectarine, Valencia orange, jasmine and flint wafts from the glass. Full-textured and brimming with acidity, this wine offers flavors of Bartlett pear, mango, Turkish delight and a sprinkling of baking spices that lingers on the palate. Olé & Obrigado. **Editors' Choice.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$72

**90** **La Comarcal 2021 Lafont (Valencia).** This wine proffers a bouquet of honeydew melon, peach and orange blossom. It offers bold acidity and flavors of Gala apple, nectarine, eucalyptus and rose petal that evaporate into a floral-infused finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$30

**87** **Vinos del Atlantico 2022 Zestos Malvar (Vinos de Madrid).** Aromas of red and yellow currant, nectarine and gravel waft from the glass. This wine is full in the mouth and has strawberry, red currant, peach, orange marmalade and honey-suckle flavors that sail into a floral finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## SPAIN ROSÉ WINES

**92** **Alta Alella 2022 GX Rosé (Catalunya).** The color of a summer sunset, this wine has aromas of nectarine, cantaloupe and freshly ground white pepper. It offers brilliant acidity and flavors of tangerine, strawberry, lemongrass, butterscotch and dried thyme. Avant Garde Wine & Spirits. —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**90** **Finca Albret 2022 Rocío (Navarra).** This deep pink-colored rosé has aromas of nectarine, raspberry and orange blossom. It is full in the mouth and has Gala apple, strawberry, apricot and rose petal flavors. A closing note Turkish delight remains on the palate. Cuddihy Wine Importers. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Muga 2022 Rosé (Rioja).** This medium blush-colored rosé has aromas of pomegranate, cherry and orange zest. Tangerine, peach, vanilla, orange blossom and sage leaf flavors sail into a pleasantly bright, long-lasting finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**88** **Armas de Guerra 2022 Mencía Rosado (Bierzo).** Pale blush to the eye, this wine has aromas of Bosc pear, red currant and violet candy. It has good mouthfeel and flavors of nectarine, yuzu, soft mint tea and Turkish delight that evaporate to leave a hint of rose petal on the palate. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Beronia 2022 Rosé (Rioja).** A bouquet of cherry, ripe summer peach and dried hillside herbs sets the stage for nectarine, raspberry, sage leaf, thyme and jasmine flavors. Lemon zest and lavender notes combined with a splash of cranberry make for a delightful finish. Gonzalez Byass USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**88** **Vinos del Atlantico 2022 Liquid Geography Mencía Rosé (Bierzo).** This whisper-pink wine has a bouquet of Seckel pear, yellow cherry and lavender. Peach, lemon, eucalyptus and rose water flavors are set into a softly textured wine that offers shining acidity and a floral-infused finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**87** **Burgo Viejo 2022 Rosado (Rioja).** Medium pink to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of strawberry, lemon zest and sage leaf. Raspberry, apricot and clementine flavors are backed by strong acidity and soft notes of dried Mediterranean herbs. Kysela Père et Fils. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Otazu 2022 Rosé Tempranillo (Navarra).** Ballet slipper pink, this wine offers a bouquet

of cherry, vanilla and fennel pollen. It has good mouthfeel, well-moderated acidity and pomegranate, strawberry preserve, lemon zest and rose petal flavors. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**86** **Monte Amán 2022 Tempranillo Rosado (Arlanza).** Deep blush in the glass, this rosé offers aromas of raspberry, peach and lavender. It is soft on entry, with nectarine, strawberry, dried thyme and rose petal flavors that sail into a citrus-splashed finish. Wine Wine Situation. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$11

**85** **Tres Ojos 2022 Garnacha-Tempranillo Rosado (Calatayud).** This cherry-red rosé has a nose of raspberry, red currant and tarragon. It has the mouthfeel of a red but refreshing qualities of a white, with well-integrated acidity and strawberry, pomegranate, nutmeg, and dried thyme and lavender flavors. Kysela Père et Fils. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

## SPAIN RED WINES

**92** **Tiabras 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Spain).** Deep cherry red in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, mocha and Turkish delight. It is soft on entry and then slightly grippy tannins build in volume. Blackberry transitions to the palate and is joined by black cherry, Mission fig, dried Mediterranean herb and bittersweet chocolate flavors that linger into a long-lasting finish. Penrose Hill. —M.D.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**91** **Breca 2021 El Nacido (Spain).** Deep violet red in the glass, this wine has aromas of casis, raspberry, lavender and a touch of cedar. It is simultaneously bright on the palate while offering a tannin-driven depth. Black cherry, Mission fig, cocoa powder, clove and tapenade flavors sail into an enduring finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

## PRIORAT

**93** **Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico 2021 La Cartuja Llicorella (Priorat).** For full review see page 11. Olé & Obrigado. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**93** **Torres 2020 Secret del Priorat (Priorat).** For full review see page 15. Wilson Daniels Ltd.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**92** **Cellers Unió 2021 Laurentia (Priorat).** This deep garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of black currant and baking spices. A framework of bold tannins supports blackberry, pomegranate,



clove and mocha flavors. The long-lasting finish has a drying effect on the tongue and gums, drawing you in for another sip. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

**92 Cellers Unió 2022 Poboleda (Priorat).** Deep violet red in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, caramel and aniseed. Blackberry, black cherry, mocha, butterscotch and herbs de Provence flavors are set into muscular tannins that evaporate into a fruit-filled finish. Monsieur Touton Selection Ltd. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$NA

**92 Clos Berenguer 2021 Clos de Tafall (Priorat).** Aromas of black plums, vanilla and smoke set the scene for cassis, blackberry, milk chocolate, dried sage leaf and black olive flavors. This wine is full-textured, with polished tannins and a well-balanced acidity that lingers into a vivid, black-pepper infused finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$30

## NAVARRA

**94 Príncipe de Viana 2018 1423 Reserva (Navarra).** This inky garnet-colored wine has a nose of black cherry, dried Mediterranean herbs and a touch of eucalyptus. Cherry and eucalyptus transition to the taste buds and are joined by flavors of raspberry, red currant, anise and a hint of orange zest. Tannins build in volume and then fade into a lengthy, mint-streaked finish. The Sorting Table. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$85

**93 Castillo de Enériz 2018 Reserva (Navarra).** For full review see page 11. Manzanos Wines USA. *Editors' Choice.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$28

**92 Agramont 2017 Reserva (Navarra).** Aromas of cassis, cherry and mocha waft from the glass. Cherry pie, purple plum, cocoa powder and herbs de Provence flavors are wrapped in velvety tannins that wind down to a bright, Valencia orange splashed finish. City Moonlight Wines and Liquors. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

**92 Bodegas Escudero 2018 Logos Cabernet Sauvignon (Navarra).** For full review see page 15. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

**92 Castillo de Enériz 2022 Tinto (Navarra).** For full review see page 16. Manzanos Wines USA. *Hidden Gem.*

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21

**92 Príncipe de Viana 2019 Vendimia Seleccionada Crianza (Navarra).** This dark violet-colored wine has a nose of cherry, nutmeg, vanilla and menthol. Persistent tannins are layered around cherry, raspberry, mint, licorice and milk chocolate

flavors and a persistent vein of pleasing acidity. A soft note of eucalyptus lingers on the palate. The Sorting Table. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$35

**92 Príncipe de Viana 2018 Reserva (Navarra).** Dark ruby to the eye, this wine offers aromas of black cherry, nutmeg, orange peel and a touch of earthiness. Sturdy tannins and bold acidity support raspberry, cherry, dried thyme and milk chocolate flavors with a whiff of cedar that carries into the enduring finish. The Sorting Table. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

**91 Aroa 2022 Le Naturel (Navarra).** Light yellow to the eye, this wine has aromas of Bartlett pear, dried thyme and jasmine. It is bright at first sip and offers toasted pineapple, cantaloupe, slivered almond and crumbled sage leaf flavors. A touch of flint lingers on the palate. Vintae USA, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$17

**91 Castillo de Enériz 2022 Tempranillo (Navarra).** Aromas of dark fruits of the wood, coffee bean and fennel pollen set the stage for cassis, raspberry, cocoa powder, lavender and aniseed flavors. Tannins start out slightly stiff and then mellow out to reveal a persistent, orange zest finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$21

**88 Pleno 2022 Tempranillo (Navarra).** A bouquet of blackberry, black cherry and violet prepares the palate for cassis, raspberry, mocha, anisette and orange blossom flavors. Lightweight tannins and a bright finish make for an easy-drinking red wine. 4Front Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

## RIOJA

**94 Bodegas Palacio 2016 Cosme Palacio Reserva (Rioja).** Dark garnet in the glass, this wine has aromas of cassis, Mission fig and a touch of smoke. A sheath of downy tannins backs up raspberry, blackberry, dried sage, aniseed and bittersweet chocolate flavors that peel away to expose a closing touch of cherry tobacco. USA Wine West. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$33

**94 Off-Piste 2018 El Domador Reserva (Rioja).** This deep ruby-colored wine proffers a bouquet of cassis, cherry, marjoram and sage. Plush tannins are wrapped around purple fig, black plum and mocha flavors with a touch of toffee that endures on the taste buds. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$38

**94 Vinícola Real 2013 200 Monges Reserva (Rioja).** This intriguing wine is a blend of 85% Tempranillo, 10% Graciano and 5% Garnacha. It has aromas of dried cranberry, red raspberry and cassis. It is soft on entry into the mouth with flavors of cherry, blackberry and cedar box. The tan-

nins are silky smooth and the finish goes on and on. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$95

**93 Bodegas Escudero 2015 Solar de Becquer Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 10. Lovemark Advanced Trading Holding LLC.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$60

**93 Bodegas Ondarre 2016 Ondarre Gran Reserva (Rioja).** This Gran Reserva is a blend of 85% Tempranillo and 15% Mazuelo. It is garnet-colored in the glass with aromas of crushed violet flowers, cassis, and dried Mediterranean herbs. It has flavors of ripe red cherry, red plum and black raspberry jam. It is full-bodied in the mouth with a velvety tannic structure and a long finish. Vine Street Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$30

**93 Villota 2020 Selvanevada (Rioja).** Aromas of dried sage, red raspberry, red plum and black currant introduce you to this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of black currant, black plum, ripe cherry and wet river rocks with a touch of eucalyptus. There is a sturdy tannic backbone and a touch of salinity in the finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$23

**92 Bodegas Berceo 2019 Berceo Reserva (Rioja).** For full review see page 15. Manzanos Wines USA.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$36

**92 Finca Valpiedra 2019 Cantos de Valpiedra (Rioja).** This delightful wine is garnet-colored in the glass with aromas of ripe red cherry, red plum and saddle leather with flavors of ripe red and black fruits, dried savory herbs, cedar shavings and tobacco leaf. The tannins are silky, the mouthfeel is rounded and the finish is persistent. Winebow Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13%

Price: \$21

**92 Rioja Vega 2016 140 Aniversario Reserva (Rioja).** This garnet-colored wine is a blend of 70% Tempranillo, 25% Graciano, and 5% Mazuelo. It has aromas of black plum, cranberry and leather. It is full-bodied in the mouth with flavors of pomegranate, black cherry and cedar box. The finish is elegant and long. Ecosur Group, LLC. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$90

**91 Casado Morales 2016 Imperio Reserva (Rioja).** This wine has full-on aromas of blackberry, saddle leather, red plum and black cherry with a top note of eucalyptus. It has flavors of ripe black fruits, red plum, black olive tapenade and a touch of forest floor. The tannins are bold but silky and the finish is persistent. Misa Imports. —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$32

**91 Faustino Rivero Ulecia 2020 Crianza (Rioja).** Garnet-colored in the glass, this wine draws you in with aromas of cassis, black raspberry and black plum. In the mouth there are flavors of freshly

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picked tobacco leaf, red cherries, cedar and dried sage wrapped in silky-soft tannins with a bright splash of acidity in the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Bodegas Franco-Españolas 2022 Royal Claret Joven (Rioja).** This delightful claret is cherry red in the glass with aromas of wild strawberry, red cherry and a whiff of forest floor. In the mouth there are flavors of ripe red fruits, pomegranate and a touch of saddle leather. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

**90 Faustino Rivero Ulecia 2022 Tempranillo-Garnacha (Rioja).** Dark ruby-garnet in the glass, this blend of Tempranillo and Garnacha has aromas of red plum, black plum, forest floor and red cherry. There are flavors of red cherries and ripe black fruits with a hint of new car leather in the finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$NA

**90 Rioja Vega 2022 (Rioja).** This deep purple wine is a blend of 90% Tempranillo and 10% Garnacha and has aromas of dried black currant, lavender and violet. There are flavors of ripe red fruits, black plum and cigar box. It has a soft tannic backbone and a touch of saline minerality in the finish. Ecosur Group, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$19

**89 Manzanos 2020 Señorío de Arnedo Crianza (Rioja).** This wine has aromas of cassis, ripe red fruits and brown baking spices. In the mouth it has silky soft tannins with ripe fruit flavors and a touch of cedar and tobacco leaf in the finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$24

**88 Bodegas Ramón Bilbao 2019 Edición Limitada (Rioja).** This wine has aromas of dried herbs, black currant and red plum. It is garnet-colored with flavors of ripe cherry, cassis and dried Mediterranean herbs. It has flavors of black currant, black plum and ripe cherry with a sturdy tannic backbone and pronounced minerality in the finish. Zamora Company USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$14

**88 Carlos Serres 2020 Crianza (Rioja).** Dark garnet in the glass, this Crianza has aromas of forest floor, red cherry, and black plum. In the mouth there are flavors of ripe black fruits and red cherries with a hint of new car leather in the finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$14

**86 Bodegas Ugalde 2022 Tempranillo (Rioja).** This delightful garnet-colored wine is a blend of 90% Tempranillo and 10% Garnacha with aromas of dried cranberry and red cherry. It is smooth on entry with flavors of red and black plums and brown baking spices. There's a touch of savory herbs in the finish. Turquoise Life. *Best Buy.* —M.D.

abv: 14%

Price: \$15

## RIBERA DEL DUERO

**96 Vizcarra 2019 Celia (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of black plum, cassis, red plum and dried savory herbs draw you into this brilliant garnet-colored wine. It is a blend of 93% Tempranillo and 7% Garnacha and has elegant mouthfeel with flavors of pomegranate, red cherry, black plum, cassis and saddle leather. There are suede-like tannins and a pleasant touch of salinity in the finish. Olé & Obligado. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$164

**96 Vizcarra 2019 Inés (Ribera del Duero).** This enticing blend of 90% Tempranillo, 8% Merlot and 2% Albillo is brilliant garnet-colored in the glass with aromas of cherry, saddle leather and black plum. It is soft on entry with flavors of black raspberry, cassis and red plum all enveloped in velvety tannins. Olé & Obligado. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$164

**94 Familia Fernández Rivera 2019 Tinto Pesquera Reserva (Ribera del Duero).** This brilliant ruby-colored wine has aromas of smoked meats, red raspberry, cassis, and anise. It has ripe red and black fruit flavors of black raspberry, red plum, red currant and just a touch of eucalyptus in the post-palate. The tannins are elegant and silky and the finish is long with a persistence of freshly ground white pepper in the post-palate. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.D.

abv: 15%

Price: \$60

**94 Resalte 2019 Expresión (Ribera del Duero).** This enticing wine is ruby-colored and has aromas of freshly cut fennel bulb, smoked meats, red raspberry and cassis. It has ripe fruit flavors of red currant, black raspberry, red plum and a touch of eucalyptus in the post palate. The tannins are velvety, and the finish goes on for days. MC Elite Wines Corp. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$59

**93 12 Linajes 2020 Grano a Grano Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of red plum, red raspberry and dried sage introduce you to this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of ripe cherry, cassis, black plum and wet river rocks with a touch of lifted mint in the post-palate. There is a sturdy, tannic backbone and a touch of salinity in the finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$150

**93 Bodegas Milvus 2020 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This wine has enticing aromas of red plum, black cherry, blackberry and saddle leather with just a whiff of eucalyptus as a top note. It has flavors of black olive tapenade, ripe black fruits with pronounced red and black plum. The tannins are bold but silky and the finish is persistent. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$143

**93 Bodegas Vilano 2020 Terra Incógnita (Ribera del Duero).** This garnet-colored wine wel-

comes you with aromas of dried Mediterranean herbs, red raspberry, black plum and cassis. It has flavors of tobacco leaf, saddle leather, black plum and ripe cherry. There is a firm tannic backbone with pleasantly grippy tannins that will mellow out with time. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$75

**93 Bodegas Vilano 2019 La Baraja (Ribera del Duero).** This delicious red blend from Ribera del Duero is comprised of 75% Tempranillo, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Merlot. It is garnet-colored in the glass with aromas of freshly picked red cherry, pomegranate, and cranberry. Very generous in the midpalate, it has flavors of black plum, red raspberry, and dried cherry all sheathed in velvety tannins. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 15%

Price: \$75

**93 Familia Fernández Rivera 2020 Condado de Haza Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Notes of brown baking spices and warm vanilla draw you into the glass. There are flavors of cassis, black raspberry and red currant with silky tannins and just a touch of freshly sliced fennel bulb in the finish. Folio Fine Wine Partners. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

**93 Finca Rodma 2020 Gran Rodma Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** This wine has soft aromas of cinnamon, nutmeg, cassis and ripe red fruits. In the palate it has pleasantly grippy tannins with ripe red and black fruit flavors and a touch of cigar box in the finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$120

**92 12 Linajes 2019 Reserva Tempranillo (Ribera del Duero).** This delightful garnet-colored wine has aromas of cranberry, pomegranate, red plum, red raspberry and dried sage. It has great mouthfeel and flavors of cassis, ripe cherry, black plum and a touch of wet slate. There is a firm tannic backbone and a touch of minerality in the finish. Vinamericas, Inc. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$65

**91 Bodegas Milvus 2021 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** This wine is brilliant garnet-colored with aromas of red raspberry, cassis, anise and a touch of smoked charcuterie. It has ripe fruit flavors of black raspberry, red currant, and fennel fronds with elegant silky tannins and a long, long finish. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$115

**91 Bodegas Vilano 2021 Black (Ribera del Duero).** Garnet-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of violet, black currant, and dried sage. It has flavors of red currant and ripe black fruits, Christmas baking spices and vanilla. It is full-bodied in the mouth with silky tannins. W. Direct. —M.D.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$33

**91 Cillar de Silos 2020 Vendimia Seleccionada Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Deep garnet-colored in the glass, this delightful wine has aromas

of cassis, crushed violet, and dried Mediterranean herbs. It has flavors of vanilla, brown baking spices and ripe black fruits. It is full-bodied in the mouth with silky tannins and a persistent finish. Alt Wines. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**91 Manzanos 2021 Berceo Selección Roble (Ribera del Duero).** This wine is ruby-garnet colored with aromas of ripe black fruits, cedar and tobacco leaf. There is a slightly grippy tannic structure and flavors of black plum, cassis, and red raspberry with a splash of bright acidity before the long finish. Manzanos Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**91 Pago del Cielo 2020 Celeste Tempranillo Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** Aromas of red cherry, red plum and cigar box draw you into this garnet-ruby-colored wine. It has flavors of ripe red and black fruits, cedar and dried Mediterranean herbs with silky tannins and a long finish. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Bodegas Viyuela 2020 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This garnet-colored wine has aromas of black raspberry, red plum, cedar box and a touch of new car leather. It is soft on entry with flavors of blackberry, black currant and red plum. The tannins are a bit grippy right now but they will soften with time. Terroir Connections. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Cillar de Silos 2020 Crianza (Ribera del Duero).** This enticing wine is brilliant garnet-colored with aromas of black raspberry, black plum and a touch of cigar box. It is full-bodied in the mouth with silky tannins and flavors of black raspberry, cassis and black cherry. Alt Wines. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Resalte 2021 Vendemia Seleccionada (Ribera del Duero).** This wine is dark garnet in the glass with aromas of black plum, black cherry and a touch of dried sage. It has firm tannins, medium body and flavors of ripe red cherry and black fruits followed by a touch of dark chocolate in the finish. MC Elite Wines Corp. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Viña Sastre 2020 Roble (Ribera del Duero).** Garnet-colored in the glass, this wine has aromas of red plum, cassis and black raspberry with flavors of ripe black cherry, dried sage and dried oregano. It has good minerality with suede-like tannins and just a touch of salinity in the finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88 Martín Berdugo 2021 Barrica (Ribera del Duero).** Garnet in color, this wine has aromas of freshly picked red cherry, dried Mediterranean herbs and dried cranberry. It is soft on entry with flavors of ripe black plum, dark chocolate and cinnamon. It is medium-bodied with silky tannins

and dried savory herbs in the long finish. Rabelais Wines. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$16

## TORO

**94 Bodegas Torredueiro 2021 Marqués de Peñamonte Colección Privada (Toro).** Dark ruby to the eye, this wine has aromas of cassis, black cherry, anisette and a touch of cedar chest. Opulent tannins support black cherry, Mission fig, clove, dried sage leaf and truffle flavors. The vibrant finish is marked with touches of clove and nutmeg. Bodegas Riojanas. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$39

**93 Cyan 2020 Crianza (Toro).** This tasty Tinta de Toro is garnet-colored with aromas of black cherry, red raspberry and red currant. It is generous in the palate with flavors of cassis, pomegranate and dried cranberry. The tannins are a bit grippy but will mellow out with time. Solera Imports. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$28

**93 Pagos del Rey 2019 Gran Bajoz Viñas Viejas (Toro).** This dark red-violet-colored wine has a nose of cherry, blackberry and chocolate-covered espresso bean. It is full in the mouth, with luxurious tannins and black cherry, mission fig, milk chocolate, espresso bean, eucalyptus and violet flavors. A savory note of dried thyme and sage makes its way into the long finish. Félix Solís Avantis USA, Inc. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**92 Matsu 2021 El Recio (Toro).** This deep garnet-colored Tinta de Toro has aromas of dried lavender, black currant and red raspberry. There are flavors of black plum, cigar box and ripe red fruits with a soft tannic backbone and a touch of saline minerality in the finish. Vintae USA, Inc. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Bodegas Fariña 2016 Gran Colegiata Original (Toro).** Aromas of black currant, cherry, licorice and mocha set the scene for blackberry, purple plum, eucalyptus, anisette and cocoa powder flavors. Polished tannins linger on the palate alongside notes of butterscotch and fennel. Vinos Libres. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

## ALICANTE

**94 Volver 2019 Triga (Alicante).** This deep garnet-colored wine has a bouquet of cassis, purple plums and caramel with a whiff of dried Mediterranean herbs. Raspberry and blackberry flavors are wrapped in a layer of rugged tannins that peel back to reveal well-integrated acidity and notes of toffee, baking spice and crumbled thyme. Wine-sellers, Ltd. **Hidden Gem.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$56

**92 Bodegas Murviedro 2018 Sericis Cepas Viejas Monastrell (Alicante).** Dark ruby in the glass, this wine has a bouquet of raspberry, dried thyme and black olive paste. It is bright on entry, offering flavors of raspberry, pomegranate and orange zest that are joined by downy tannins and notes of dark chocolate and fennel seed that dominate the enduring finish. Schenk Wines USA. —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**88 Allegranza 2021 Gran Monastrell (Alicante).** Aromas of cherry preserves, lavender and a touch of sage lead the way for black cherry, raspberry, eucalyptus, espresso and olive tapenade flavors. This wine is bright on entry and offers rugged tannins and dried hillside herb flavors that endure on the palate. Hammeken Cellars USA. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

**87 Bodegas Sierra Salinas 2019 Mo Monastrell (Alicante).** Aromas of blackberry and dried oregano with a hint of orange blossom pave the way for ripe summer cherry, raspberry, cocoa butter and violet flavors wrapped in soft tannins. Bright from first sip, this easy-drinking red has a splash of cranberry on the smooth finish. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$13

## YECLA

**95 Alberto Orte 2017 Elo Monastrell (Yecla).** The color of blackberry pie filling, this wine offers a bouquet of black cherry, cassis and clove. Opulent tannins provide a framework for cherry, blackberry, nutmeg, dark chocolate and coffee bean flavors with a hint of olive tapenade. The lengthy finish is marked with a note of caramel. An antidote to fresh, easy-drinking Monastrell, this is one to lay down and savor in a few years. Drink through 2031. Olé & Obrigado. **Cellar Selection.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$47

**92 Bodega Trenza 2016 Rizado (Yecla).** Aromas of red plum, cassis and dried herbs draw you into this garnet-colored wine. It has flavors of red cherry, black plum, cassis and dried herbs with a whiff of mint. There are suede-like tannins and a pleasant touch of salinity in the finish. International Cellars. —M.D.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$80

**91 Compañía de Vinos del Atlántico 2020 Gordo Monastrell & Cabernet Sauvignon (Yecla).** Deep purple to the eye, this wine has a bouquet of cassis, blackberry, anise and rose petal. A floral note makes its way to the palate, where it underlies fruit of the wood, licorice, milk chocolate, and star anise notes. Velvet tannins and a splash of orange zest endure into the smooth finish. Olé & Obrigado. **Best Buy.** —M.D.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20



# BUYINGGUIDE

**91 La Purísima 2021 Casa Senda del Molino Organic Garnacha/Syrah/Monastrell (Yecla).** For full review see page 21. W. Direct. —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$28

**90 Nirea 2020 (Yecla).** This dark garnet-colored blend of Monastrell and Garnacha offers aromas of black cherry, pine needle and anisette. It is juicy in the mouth, with smooth tannins, vibrant acidity, and cherry pie, blackberry jam, aniseed and eucalyptus flavors. Touches of smoke and black pepper make their way into the bright finish. Olé & Obrigado. —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$NA

**88 Gran Pasas 2020 Monastrell (Yecla).** A bouquet of purple plum, dried thyme and a touch of green bell pepper paves the way for bold black cherry, Mission fig, fennel pollen, crumbled sage leaf and cedar chest flavors. Slightly grippy tannins coat the tongue and gums and hold on. Hammeken Cellars USA. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

**88 Toro Bravo 2020 Oak Selección White Label Cabernet Sauvignon Monastrell (Yecla).** Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of blackberry, cassis, dried marjoram and fennel bulb. It is bright on entry, with midweight tannins and pomegranate, raspberry, aniseed and dried sage flavors that wind down to a soft finish. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$16

## JUMILLA

**92 Hacienda del Carche 2020 Cepas Viejas Old Vines (Jumilla).** This inky violet-red wine offers aromas of black currant, crumbled sage and aniseed. Cassis, purple plum and mocha flavors are joined by silky tannins and soft notes of violet and cranberry that linger on the palate. La Vida Escorchada. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$20

**91 Alceño 2020 Alceño 12 Twelve Monastrell (Jumilla).** This blackberry-preserve-colored wine has a nose of black currant, mocha and grated ginger. Bold tannins and soft acidity shelter black cherry, blackberry, mint tea and cocoa powder flavors. A splash of Valencia orange brightens up the finish. Viñedos Distribution LLC. —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$25

**91 Bodegas Luzón 2020 Altos de Luzón (Jumilla).** Dark garnet to the eye, this wine has a nose of cassis, blackberry and black olive paste with a hint of tar. Blackberry, black cherry, mocha, caramel and orange zest flavors are cloaked in velvety tannins that endure on the tongue and gums. Aviva Vino. —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$21

**90 Bodegas Luzón 2021 Finca Luzón Roble Monastrell (Jumilla).** Aromas of cassis, dried thyme and sage set the stage for blackberry, cassis,

butterscotch and licorice flavors. Surprisingly polished tannins build in volume and fade into a floral-scented finish. Aviva Vino. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**88 Casa Rojo 2020 Macho Man (Jumilla).** Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has aromas of dark fruits of the wood, dark chocolate and dried thyme. A wall of rigid tannins supports purple plum, cassis, mocha, anisette and herbs de Provence flavors. The slightly stiff finish is marked with notes of crumbled sage and olive paste. Little Blue Planet LLC. —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$26

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Ca'n Verdura Viticultors 2021 Ca'n Xicatlà Blanc de Mantonegro (Binissalem-Mallorca).** Technically a still blanc de noirs, this white wine made with a red grape native to the Balearic islands has the faintest hint of pink about it. Aromas of Valencia orange, peach and flint pave the way for clementine, apricot preserve, ground almond, honeysuckle and smoke flavors. Its gorgeous texture and brilliant acidity make for a nice pour from first sip to rose petal finish. De Maison Selections, Inc. *Editors' Choice.* —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$60

**93 Bodegas Piqueras 2019 Los Losares Monastrell (Almansa).** Inky garnet to the eye, this Monastrell from a little-known region near Valencia has aromas of blackberry, espresso bean and violet. Plush tannins play backup to raspberry, cherry, dark chocolate, olive tapenade and sage leaf flavors. A savory note of dried thyme persists into the smooth finish. Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. *Hidden Gem.* —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$29

**93 Viveros Cambra 2021 El Jefe (Valencia).** Deep violet-red in the glass, this wine has a nose of black cherry, black currant and dried thyme. Bold tannins fill the palate and then recede, revealing strong acidity and purple plum, pomegranate, milk chocolate, pencil lead and black truffle flavors. The smooth finish is marked with a pleasing note of smoke. Misa Imports. —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**92 Aljibes 2020 Enclave Monastrell (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** Inky ruby in color, this wine has a nose of three berry preserves, mint tea and aniseed. A soft anise note transitions to the palate and is accompanied by black cherry, blackberry, mocha and lemon thyme flavors. Polished tannins and well-matched acidity make for a pleasant finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**91 Organic Wine Tribe 2021 Pure Est. Organic Monastrell (Valencia).** This deep-hued red wine has aromas of black plum, Mission fig, marjoram and oregano. Muscular tannins are joined by bold acidity and black currant, black cherry, choc-

olate-covered espresso bean, licorice and lavender flavors. A soft floral note persists on the taste buds. W. Direct. —M.D.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

**90 Aljibes 2020 Monastrell (Vino de la Tierra de Castilla).** This dark garnet Monastrell offers aromas of black cherry, purple plum and black olive paste. Cherry and raspberry flavors are joined by vigorous tannins and notes of mocha, crumbled sage leaf and dried cranberry that linger on the palate. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$20

**89 Laus 2021 (Somontano).** This dark ruby-colored wine has a bold nose of cherry and Mission fig. It is intensely fruity on the palate, with black cherry and purple plum flavors accompanied by notes of dark chocolate, violet and a touch of smoke. Tannins seem a bit strong at first but slowly evaporate. Vinamericas, Inc. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14% Price: \$16

**88 Breca 2021 Garnacha de Fuego (Calatayud).** This dark garnet-colored wine has a nose of black currant, cherry and fennel pollen. It is equal parts fruity and spicy, with cherry, cassis, violet, licorice and eucalyptus flavors wrapped in a sheath of polished tannins. The finish is marked with a note of mint. Jorge Ordóñez Selections. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 15% Price: \$15

**88 Mondelion NV Garnacha Autóctona (Calatayud).** A bouquet of cherries and red plums leads the way for raspberry, Mission fig, eucalyptus, licorice, vanilla and black pepper flavors. Delicate tannins drift away to reveal notes of mint and orange zest. Votto Vines Importing. *Best Buy.* —M.D.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$15

## PORTUGAL WHITE WINES VINHO VERDE

**94 Aveleda 2022 Solos de Granitico (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 6. Aveleda Inc.  
abv: 13% Price: \$25

**93 Aveleda 2022 Solos de Xisto (Vinho Verde).** For full review see page 10. Aveleda Inc.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**91 Adega de Monção 2022 Deu la Deu (Vinho Verde).** The latest iteration of one of Portugal's iconic brands shows a rich, ripe side to Alvarinho. The wine is full-bodied, hinting at minerality and rich apple fruits, shot through with lemon crispness. Drink from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$19

**89 Adegas de Monção 2022 Colheita (Vinho Verde).** A fine, juicy wine with acidity and white fruits. Its mineral texture and balancing freshness are delicious and rounded. Drink the wine from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$13

**89 Quinta das Arcas 2022 Arca Nova Alvarinho (Vinho Verde).** A ripe, apple and spice wine, this has a creamy texture and richness. It is a warm wine, its acidity and citrus flavors lift its full-bodied character. Drink the wine now. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$16

**88 Quinta das Arcas 2022 Arca Nova Loureiro (Vinho Verde).** This variety, whose home is the Lima Valley in the center of Vinho Verde has given a fruity wine with citrus flavors and a mineral texture. The wine is lightly floral and ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 11.5% Price: \$14

**86 Quinta das Arcas 2022 Arca Nova (Vinho Verde).** With a light spritz, this low-alcohol off-dry white wine is fresh and totally crisp. It is bright and shows a cool, northern feel. Drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 10.5% Price: \$11

## DOURO

**93 Quinta do Noval 2022 Reserva (Douro).** This wood-aged wine is a new addition to the Noval range. Its spice and white fruits are dense with great intensity. The Douro minerality is in the background, giving structure. Drink this powerful wine from 2025. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$100

**92 Pormenor Vinhos 2020 Trilho em Pormenor (Douro).** A blend of Rabigato and Arinto, the wine is ripe, shot through with wood flavors as well as a taut texture. The wine is full and spicy, ready to drink. JD Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$55

**92 Quinta da Foz 2021 Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** A field blend of 15 varieties, this old vine white is wood aged with white fruits and dense toast flavors. It is perfectly balanced with acidity and fruit backed by some of the typical Douro minerality. Drink now. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
abv: NA Price: \$120

**92 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Mirabilis (Douro).** A blend of French and Hungarian oak (that brings a spicier character to a wine than French) were used in this rich white wine. Partly a field blend of centenarian vines, the wine is densely rich, white fruits shot through with vibrant citrus and toastiness. The wine needs to age further; drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 14% Price: \$80

**91 Poças 2022 Branco da Ribeira (Douro).** A blend of Arinto and Codega with 100% wood fermentation and aging. Citrus and white fruits come together in a mineral, spicy texture. The fresh wine will be ready from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$80

**91 Pormenor Vinhos 2021 A de Arinto (Douro).** This is a ripe, wood-aged wine, rich in apple and spice flavors. Its texture shows minerality and a steely edge that gives a contrast between the fine fruit. Drink now. JD Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$39

**91 Quinta do Portal 2020 Grande Reserva (Douro).** This is a beautiful wine; its wood aging flavors are showing well along with the rich fruits. White fruits are supported with acidity and spice. Drink this rich wine now. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

**91 Quinta do Vallado 2022 Vallado Reserva (Douro).** This ripe wood-aged wine comes from old vines in the Rio Torto valley, a tributary on the south bank of the Douro. It is full of apples and ripe kiwi flavors, lined with acidity. Drink this wine from 2024. Quintessential. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$48

**90 CARM 2022 Reserva Branco (Douro).** With eight months in wood, the wine has richness as well as full fruit. Apple flavors are freshened with kiwi and given density with spice and minerality. The wine is still young and, with its wood aging, will be better from late 2024. Suitable for vegans. Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$32

**90 Poças 2022 Poças Branco (Douro).** Produced from a blend of four varieties grown at a cool 1,800 feet, the wine is fruity and certainly fresh. Acidity and a vibrant tang bring brightness to the wine. Drink from 2024. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$20

**90 Pormenor Vinhos 2022 Reserva Branco (Douro).** Fresh and fruity, this attractive, balanced wine has plenty of apple acidity and bright freshness with just a hint of spice from wood aging. Its citrus flavors give lightness to this zesty wine. Drink now. JD Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$49

**90 Quinta do Noval 2022 Cedro do Noval (Douro).** Floral and aromatic with white flowers and fresh lemons, this is a rounded wine. Its touch of toast contrasts with the wine's natural freshness. Drink the wine from 2024. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$36

**90 Quinta do Portal 2022 Reserva (Douro).** Lightly aged in wood, the wine is touched by spice and filled with apple and white fruit fla-

vors. It has layers of acidity that are still intense and young. The Douro's minerality from the schist soil is very evident. The wine needs to come together and fill out. Drink from late 2024. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$32

**90 Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2022 Grainha Reserva (Douro).** This ripe, wood-aged wine is a blend of Viosinho, Rabigato and Gouveio, all typical Douro white varieties. It is a fruity wine with a layer of toastiness that has been tempered by acidity. The wine is young and will be better from later this year. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

**89 Poças 2022 Poças Reserva (Douro).** Aged in wood, this ripe wine has a light feel to it. The acidity and citrus freshness give spice and a lift to the smoothness of the wine. Perfumed and fresh, the wine is ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12% Price: \$35

**89 Quinta de Porrais 2022 Porrais (Douro).** A fresh, mineral-driven wine with acidity and a crisp, citrus aftertaste, the white fruits give it richness and a vibrant character. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$12

**89 Quinta do Pessegueiro 2022 Origins (Douro).** Partial barrel aging has given this fine, mineral-driven wine a smooth texture. The wine's freshness also comes through for a citrus edge to its aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.  
abv: 13% Price: \$24

**89 Wines & Winemakers 2022 Andrez Reserva (Douro).** Blending three of the Douro's familiar white varieties—Viosinho, Rabigato and Gouveio—the wine is fresh, tangy and mineral. The citrus element gives the wine a bright character that is filled out with crisp green apples. Drink from later this year. Costa Nova. —R.V.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$21

**88 CARM 2022 Branco (Douro).** Freshly floral and with just a touch of minerality, the wine is light and shot through with citrus freshness. The contrast of fruit and texture sets up a tension that will take a few months to soften. Wait until late 2024. Suitable for vegans, Massanois Imports. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$23

**88 Pormenor Vinhos 2022 Branco (Douro).** Grapes that are a mouthful to say—Rabigato, Malvasia Fina, Codega do Lérinho and Gouveio—are blended in this bright, zesty wine. Fine citrus acidity and a light texture make this wine ready to drink. JD Selections. —R.V.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$22

## DÃO

**93 Quinta da Taboadella 2022 Taboadella Encruzado Reserva (Dão).** The wine, made from Encruzado, the signature white variety of the Dão, is endowed with richness and layers of toasty wood. Creamy in texture, with baked apple and spice flavors, the wine is already delicious but will improve further. Drink from 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Global Wines 2021 Casa de Santar Reserva (Dão).** From this aristocratic estate, the wine is beautifully textured with vibrant acidity and a fine citrus freshness. It has a touch of spice from wood aging, giving the wine a smoothness at the end along with the juicy acidity. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**91 Quinta do Covão 2021 Reserva Encruzado (Dão).** This is a wine from the Dão's top white variety. It has a rich element that balances the citrus and acidity. A touch of spice from wood aging gives added complexity. This is a fine wine that could age further, so drink from 2025. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**91 Seacampo 2020 Casa Américo 625 Mts (Dão).** The wine comes from a granite soil 2,000-foot high vineyard. Old vines give concentration and richness to a wine that also shows a cool edge. Spicy from wood aging, the wine has a riper edge. Drink the wine now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**90 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos 2022 Vinha de Santa Maria Grântico (Dão).** The Dão region is granite, sometimes found in the form of huge boulders. Here the wine from small parcels exhibits this terroir in strong minerality that permeates through its texture. Set against that is ripe acidity, red apple and pear flavors and layers of spice. Drink the wine from 2024. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**88 Global Wines 2022 Casa de Santar (Dão).** Encruzado, Malvasia and Bical are blended in this wood-aged wine. It is a fruity wine with a perfume and spicy acidity. Drink the wine from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**88 Seacampo 2021 Casa Américo Branco Pelicular (Dão).** This is a blend of Bical and the new cross-bred grape Barcelo, normally both found farther toward the coast than Dão. It is a fruity wine, fresh and crisp with acidity and green apple flavors. Drink the wine now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

**87 Messias 2021 Quinta do Penedo (Dão).** The wine comes from the granite soil of this

estate, granite typical of the Dão. It gives a strongly mineral character to the wine. That's enhanced by the 10 months in wood, giving a balanced, light alcohol wine with a strong texture. Drink now. Direct Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$17

## LISBOA

**91 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 Reserva (Lisboa).** Fruity and fresh with apricot flavors and light spice from brief oak aging, the wine has acidity, zesty character and a mineral edge that gives it shape. Drink this fine wine now. Alt Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$40

**88 Adega Mãe 2022 Pinta Negra (Lisboa).** Crisp and fruity, the wine is light, bright and fresh. There is a saline edge to the wine, giving a bite to the texture. Drink now. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$8

**87 Casca Wines 2022 Cabo da Roca (Lisboa).** A light and fruity wine that brings together Chardonnay, Fernão Pires and the very local Vital. It's the Vital that provides the intense acidity that permeates the wine. It's a refreshing wine that is ready to drink. LGL Imports LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$10

**87 Sanguinhal 2022 (Lisboa).** This wine is light and fruity, full of citrus flavors and plenty of acidity. Tangy with a verve and vibrancy, the wine is lively and fresh. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2022 Monarkia das Marias (Lisboa).** The wine is fruity with a bright texture. Apple and citrus are right up front with acidity and a zesty character. Drink now. Alt Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**86 Sanguinhal 2022 Cerejeiras (Lisboa).** A bright, fruity wine, this is a blend of four varieties, including Vital, a crisp local grape. It is a soft wine that is young, fresh and full of citrus and apple flavors. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$9

## TEJO

**89 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Arinto-Chardonnay Reserva (Tejo).** Wood aged and ripe, the wine is generous, and broad in its character. The white fruits, spiced and given complexity by toastiness are still young, bright at the end and demanding aging. Drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Falua 2022 Conde Vimioso Sommelier Edition (Tejo).** A ripe wine with intense acidity, citrus flavors and total freshness. The wine has a crisp texture and potential richness as it ages. Drink the wine from 2025. Concurrent Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Falua 2022 Conde Vimioso Colheita Selecciona (Tejo).** This fruity wine with its apple freshness and crisp texture is a blend of Arinto and Fernão Pires. Light and bright, it is ready to drink. Concurrent Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$9

**87 Quinta da Alorna 2022 Colheita (Tejo).** This is a fresh, grassy wine with citrus fruits to the fore. The Sauvignon Blanc in the blend gives the wine its herbal edge that needs to soften. Drink this wine later this year. Brands of Portugal. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

## ALENTEJANO

**91 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2021 Reserva (Alentejano).** This wine is from the Serra do Mendro in eastern Alentejo. Its blend of four varieties includes Alvarinho aged in cement tanks to preserve freshness. This wine is now well-aged, ready to drink. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2020 Garrafeira (Alentejano).** A touch of wood aging in 3,000-liter French oak barrels gives this mountain wine its spicy character. With 70% Antão Vaz, the wine is fruity, the white fruits layered into acidity and toast. It is a fine wine, its richness likely to soften further. Drink from later this year. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$90

**90 Herdade dos Grous 2022 Reserva (Alentejano).** This wood-aged wine is rich with both spice and concentrated white fruits. The citrus is a fresh line of acidity to give a fine lift to the wine. The wine is worth aging; wait until late 2024. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Adega do Monte Branco 2022 Alento Reserva (Alentejano).** A fresh and flavorsome blend of Arinto and Antão Vaz, this is crisp, tangy with spice and acidity. It is a wine that will be ready to drink from 2025. Alt Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**88 Herdade dos Grous 2022 (Alentejano).** A fresh and fruity style with vivid white fruits and citrus. It is a bright wine with a richer edge giving weight to the blend of Antão Vaz, Arinto and Gouveio. Drink from 2024. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$19



## OTHER WHITE WINES

**94** **Quinta da Fonte Souto 2020 Taifa (Alentejo).** This is a very fine, rich wine of pure Arinto. Wood-aged in new barrels with concentration set against the acidity, the wine is worth aging to give it further depth. Produced in northern Alentejo, the wine is ripe and lightly structured. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Premium Port Wines, Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$105

**93** **Messias 2017 Messias Clássico (Bairrada).** It's the fermentation and aging in wood that give this impressive wine its richness. The dense texture and perfumed blend of Bical and Cerceal are firm with a sophisticated character. The wine is fully ready to drink. Direct Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$45

**90** **Sanguinhal 2021 Quinta das Cerejeiras Grande Reserva (Obidos).** Chardonnay, Arinto and the local Vital varieties are blended in this wine. The fruit is rounded, the dominant Chardonnay giving a creamy texture against the wine's freshness and acidity. Drink the wine now. Sarmiento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**89** **Messias 2022 Quinta do Valdeiro (Bairrada).** A crisp, light blend of Chardonnay, Arinto and Bical is fruity with citrus and green apple flavors. Its acidity is still young and vibrant, giving a fine lift to the aftertaste. Drink from 2025. Direct Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Sanguinhal 2022 Quinta de S. Francisco (Obidos).** From grapes grown near the picturesque town of Obidos, this wine has great fruitiness and richness. It is rounded with white fruits, a burst of acidity and a crisp aftertaste. Drink now. Sarmiento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Global Wines 2022 Berço do Infante (Beira Interior).** From the mountainous east of Portugal, the wine is crisp and fruity. That balances the creamy texture and a bright acidity. The wine is vibrant and will be ready to drink later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$8

## SPARKLING WINE

**88** **Messias 2020 Millesimé (Bairrada).** A fruity sparkling wine, blending mainly Chardonnay and Bical, the local variety used in sparkling wines. It is crisp, fruity with citrus flavors and fresh acidity. The wine is ready to drink. Direct Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$19

## PORTUGAL ROSÉ WINES

**88** **Falua 2022 Conde Vimioso Sommelier Edition Rosé (Tejo).** This rich wine is a blend of Touriga Nacional and Syrah. That gives a sense of structure even to a rosé. It is young, ripe and full of red berry fruits. Drink now. Concurrent Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2022 Reserva Rosé (Lisboa).** With six months aging in wood, this rosé has a touch of spice as well as red currant fruit. It is juicy and tangy, a ripe, full and ready to drink. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Alt Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$50

**87** **Global Wines 2022 Colheita Seleccionada Rosé (Dão).** Fresh red fruits and crisp acidity are right up front in this bright wine. There is a fine tangy acidity that gives the wine its lightness and fine touch at the end. Drink now. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5 **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Poças 2022 Rosé (Douro).** This is a rich style of rosé with spice as well as red fruits. The ripe combination is lifted by the acidity that brings crispness to the blend of Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86** **Casca Wines 2022 Cabo da Roca Rosé (Lisboa).** This is a fruity rosé, bursting with freshness. Its red fruits are soft with a fine touch of acidity, giving a blend of Aragonez, Castelão and Syrah that is immediately drinkable. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**85** **Sanguinhal 2022 Cerejeiras Rosé (Lisboa).** Aged in steel tanks, this fresh, fruity wine is young and ready to drink. Red fruits mingle with citrus flavors and a light touch of tannin. Sarmiento's Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$9

**85** **Quinta das Arcas 2022 Arca Nova Rosé (Vinho Verde).** The wine is soft with caramel and spice flavors alongside fresh red fruits. It is light and fruity, ready to drink now. Wine Bridge Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$12

**84** **Adega de Monção 2022 Muralhas de Monção Rosé (Vinho Verde).** This is a warming rosé, its ripe red fruits shining out with acidity to give it a fresher edge. The wine has a caramel flavor that is less attractive. Drink now. Suitable for vegans. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$10

## PORTUGAL RED WINES

### DOURO

**95** **Quinta da Foz 2020 Vinha da Praça (Douro).** From a parcel of old vines in this magnificent vineyard, this is a rich, powerful field blend. It has ripe tannins and concentrated black fruits with acidity to match. This is a wine for some serious aging. Drink from 2027. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$190

**95** **Quinta do Noval 2019 Vinhas da Marka (Douro).** This single-vineyard wine comes from a parcel whose origins date back to the 18th century. A field blend has produced a rich, complex wine. Wood aging added to the wine's ripeness and gives a spice character while the open lagar fermentation has smoothed some of the wine's tannins. It will need to age further, so drink this impressive wine from 2026. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$250

**94** **Quinta do Noval 2020 Reserva (Douro).** Rich and structured, this powerfully juicy, succulent wine shows great concentration. It is full of black fruits with smoky layers of tannins and dense and concentrated ripeness. The wine needs to age. Drink from 2026. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$90

**94** **Quinta do Noval 2020 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** The floral notes of this wine immediately announce Touriga Nacional. It is a dense and powerful wine showing its rich tannins and concentrated black currant flavors. While the wine does have weight, it also has great elegance and certainly balance. It needs to age, and is only likely to be ready from 2026. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$59

**94** **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Mirabilis (Douro).** Tinta Amarela and a field blend of old vines give this wine its depth and power. Wood aged for a year, the wine has weight and fine concentration. Juicy black fruits shine through the tannic structure and bring acidity to the wine's richness. Drink this powerful wine from 2027. Wein Bauer Inc. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$150

**93** **Pormenor Vinhos 2019 Trilho em Pormenor (Douro).** Balanced by a 40% old-vine field blend, this is a rich, concentrated wine. It still has dense tannins layering spice and black fruits. The wine is balanced with acidity giving it a lift. Drink this fine, ripe wine from 2025. JD Selections. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**93** **Quinta da Foz 2020 Cuvée 1872 (Douro).** This vineyard at the confluence of the Pinhão and Douro rivers is beautifully exposed to the east and west. This is a rich wine, made from

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Touriga Nacional, powerful and dense. With ripe tannins and concentration, it will age. Drink from 2026. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$190

**93** **Quinta do Pessegueiro 2020 Grande Reserva (Douro).** Winemaker João Cabral Nicolau de Almeida has created this rich wine, solid with tannins and fine black fruits. Produced from old vines, it has concentration and density. The juicy aftertaste promises well for the wine's future. Drink from 2026. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$33

**93** **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Reserva Terroir Blend (Douro).** Aged for nine months in wood, this full-bodied wine reflects the schist soil of the Douro. Rich in tannins and with a mineral edge, it has swaths of ripe fruits and structure. The wine will age; ready to drink from 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Herdade dos Grous 2016 Quinta de Valbom Vinhas Velhas (Douro).** A field blend of old vines with rich black currant fruits and a dry core. It is a rich wine, produced by fermentation in open lagars, giving a dense texture and concentration. The wine is ready to drink. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$82

**92** **Quinta das Carvalhas 2018 Touriga Nacional (Douro).** This 100% Touriga Nacional shows the pedigree of this variety in one of its heartlands. The wine is impressively rich, perfumed and layered with ageworthy tannins. It has structure and a solid texture from concentrated black fruits. The wine is worth aging further, so drink from 2025. Park Street Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**92** **Quinta do Pessegueiro 2020 Origina (Douro).** This estate in the depths of the Torto Valley has produced a rich wine, structured with signs of developing maturity. Black fruits and concentrated tannins will allow it to develop further. Drink from 2025. Cognac One, LLC. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**92** **Quinta do Vallado 2021 Vallado Douro Superior (Douro).** From vineyards in the Douro Superior region, this fine wine has rich tannins and spice from wood aging. It is a ripe blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Sousão, dense and still firm. Drink from 2025. Quintessential. —R.V.

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

**92** **Quinta Nova de Nossa Senhora do Carmo 2021 Reserva Touriga Nacional (Douro).** A richly spicy and perfumed wine, this shows the Touriga Nacional at its ageworthy best. It is young, with acidity and a layer of firm tannins that gives structure. The black fruits offer potential richness. Drink the wine from 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Wines & Winemakers 2018 Andreza Grande Reserva (Douro).** This powerful, mature wood-aged wine has dense black fruits and a rich texture. It shows power and complexity, blending Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Sousão in a wine that, although ready, will still be better aged further. Wait and drink from 2025. Costa Nova. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.

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

**91** **Martha's Wines 2019 Vinha do Legado (Douro).** A straightforward blend of Touriga Nacional and Sousão, the wine has a dense structure with solid tannins. Black fruits are reflected in the black color of this powerful wine. Drink the wine from 2026. Saraiva Enterprises. —R.V.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$29

**91** **Quinta das Carvalhas 2021 Reserva (Douro).** This wood-aged wine comes from a vineyard opposite the village of Pinhão, at the heart of the Cima Corgo region. Its rich tannins are set for smoothing and deepening into the wine's black fruits. Drink from 2026. Park Street Imports. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90** **CARM 2021 Reserva (Douro).** Aged for 18 months in wood, this wine has filled out and smoothed its tannins. This texture contrasts with the wine's concentrated black plum flavors and core of dryness. It is a powerful wine, ready to age further. Drink from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**90** **Pormenor Vinhos 2020 Tinto (Douro).** This is a spicy, smoky field blend wine with young tannins set alongside the black fruits. It has a fresh element as well as dense berry flavors. Light wood aging has polished its texture. Drink from 2025. JD Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Wines & Winemakers 2020 Andreza Altitude (Douro).** Lightly wood aged, this is a spicy wine, full of ripe tannins and with plenty of acidity. Its structure is still firm, suggesting further aging will improve it. Drink this wine from 2025. Costa Nova. —R.V.

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

**89** **Pormenor Vinhos 2019 Tinto (Douro).** A spicy, wood-aged wine, this is ripe with black fruits. A blend of five varieties in a field blend, it has structure and density. The wine's tannins are softening well, so drink now. JD Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** NA **Price:** \$30

**89** **Quinta do Portal 2021 Mural Reserva (Douro).** A ripe, spicy wine, full of black fruits and balanced acidity. The wine shows an edge of minerality and tannins that are still young. Drink this wine from 2025. M Imports, LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **CARM 2021 Organic Tinto (Douro).** This blend of mainly Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz is rich and full-bodied. Still young, it is certainly ageworthy. Ripe tannins are a background to the succulent blackberry fruits. Drink this fine wine from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Massanois Imports. —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**88** **Duorum 2021 Tons de Duorum (Douro).** The second wine of Duorum is richly textured while also open and fruity. Its structure and black fruits are shot through with a mineral texture and ripe spice and toast flavors. Drink the wine now. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Messias 2020 Quinta do Cachão (Douro).** Aged in wood for a year, this spicy, polished wine comes from a blend of Touriga Franca, Tinta Roriz, Touriga Nacional and Tinta Barroca. It is a rich wine, its acidity balancing the blackberry flavors. The wine is almost ready; drink now. Direct Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Messias 2019 Cachão (Douro).** A fruity wine with soft tannins and ripe red fruits, this has a generous, tasty feel. It is lightly oaked for 12 months in older barrels that has smoothed the wine's texture. The wine is ready to drink. Direct Wine Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Poças 2021 Poças Tinto (Douro).** Light wood aging gives this wine richness and adds spice and density. It's an open wine, still young but with a fine, easy potential. Drink the wine from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.

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

**88** **Wines & Winemakers 2021 A Três Mãos Reserva (Douro).** The "Three Hands" is a rich blend of Touriga Nacional, Touriga Franca and Tinta Roriz. Wood aged and packed with black fruits, it is a promising wine. Likely to age with ease, the wine will be better from 2025. Costa Nova. —R.V.

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

**87** **Poças 2021 Tongue Twister (Douro).** Aged in stainless steel, this light, fruity wine is full of fresh red fruits. It is part of a series of releases featuring labels that illustrate tongue twisters (this one by Andre de Loba illustrates "I saw Susie sitting in a shoe shine shop.") Gentle tannins and spice give the wine's freshness some complexity. Drink this attractive wine now. Suitable for vegans. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.

**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$14

**87** **Pormenor Vinhos 2021 Canuco (Douro).** A field blend from old vines, this is fruity and fresh. Touches of spice balance the wine's red fruits and light tannins. The wine is ready to drink. JD Selections. —R.V.

**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$19

## DÃO

**93** **Quinta da Taboadella 2021 Taboadella Alfrocheiro Reserva (Dão).** This impressively rich wine is textured and full of black fruits. Polished by the wood aging, the wine's ripe tannins have been smoothed and enhanced. Produced from Alfrocheiro, one of the indigenous varieties of the Dão region, the wine is still structured and should age well. Drink from 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Quinta da Taboadella 2021 Taboadella Jaen Reserva (Dão).** Aged in a mix of new and second-year barrels, this showpiece for the Jaen variety is densely textured and full of black plum fruits. It is a dense wine, its ripe tannins still present over the wine's acidity and juicy aftertaste. Age the wine further and drink from 2026. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**92** **Quinta do Covão 2020 Reserva Touriga Nacional (Dão).** Rich Touriga Nacional from the slopes of the Serra da Estrela, Portugal's highest mountain range, is a ripe, powerful wine. With dense, young tannins and rich berry flavors, it will age well. Drink from 2026. MHW, Ltd. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92** **Seacampo 2019 Casa Américo 625 Mts (Dão).** A wine from a field blend of vines grown at 2,000 feet, this is impressively rich, layering black fruits and minerality from the granite soil. It is an impressive wine, its rich tannins still firmly in place. Drink the wine from 2026. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Editors' Choice.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**91** **Casa Santos Lima 2021 Taverna da Aldeia (Dão).** This ripe wine is packed with black fruits, supported by tannins. Its freshness and mineral texture give a lighter contrast to the wine's concentration. The wine is still developing and should be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**91** **Global Wines 2021 Grilos Reserva (Dão).** The wine, named after the cricket, is dense and richly endowed. A blend of Aragonez, Touriga Nacional and Jaen, it has spice from wood aging and generous tannins. The wine is still young with a firm structure beside the fruit. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**89** **Global Wines 2021 Casa de Santar (Dão).** A rich, wood-aged wine from the Santar estate, this is packed with black fruits and young tannins. This blend of Touriga Nacional, Alfrocheiro and Aragonez is still structured, and needs to soften. Drink from 2025. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**88** **Global Wines 2021 Grilos (Dão).** A ripe and spicy wine named after a cricket, this is

balanced between solid tannins and layers of black fruits. It is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

**88** **Quinta do Covão 2020 (Dão).** This rich, juicy wine, whose blend is dominated by Touriga Nacional, is dense and ripe. There is a layer of acidity in this young wine that will soften as it matures. Drink from 2026. MHW, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## DURIENSE

**93** **Quinta do Noval 2020 Petit Verdot (Duriense).** The Bordeaux grape, normally grown in the Médoc, has found a fine niche in Noval. Its structure, dark color and powerful tannins are enhanced by the warm Douro climate. The wine's aging ability suggests it will take its time. Drink from 2026. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$59

**93** **Quinta do Noval 2020 Syrah (Duriense).** Richly perfumed, the wine is concentrated and dense. Black fruits are in abundance with firm tannins alongside the perfumed berry fruits and finely tuned acidity. Drink this ripe wine from 2026. Vintus LLC. *Cellar Selection.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$59

**90** **Quinta do Noval 2020 Cedro do Noval (Duriense).** This second wine of Noval, named after the ancient cedar tree that grows on the terrace outside the quinta house, is open, with its tannins right up front and already softening. Black fruits and fragrant acidity are young but secure in their ripeness. Drink the wine from 2025. Vintus LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

## LISBOA

**92** **Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2020 Reserva (Lisboa).** This rich blend of Syrah and Viognier, a famous Rhône blend in Côte Rotie, the wine is dense and concentrated. Spice and polish from wood aging for up to 20 months give the wine its potential. Drink from 2026. Alt Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**91** **Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 Reserva (Lisboa).** The wine is young, with bright fruits and firm tannins. The wine is juicy and structured; blackberry flavors and acidity give a wine with great potential. It will be ready from 2027. Alt Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90** **Casa Santos Lima 2022 Bons Ventos Superior (Lisboa).** Layers of tannins and ripe black fruits are combined in this wood-aged wine. It has a dense character that gives the blackberry flavors a ripe structure. The wine is worth aging;

drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**90** **Casa Santos Lima 2020 Palha Canas Reserva (Lisboa).** A selection from the Palha Canas vineyard, this wine has depth and rich, dark black fruits. It is a concentrated blend of Touriga Nacional, Tinta Roriz, Touriga Franca, Castelão and Camarate that brings out dense tannins and juicy acidity. Age the wine further and drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Casa Santos Lima 2019 Colossal Touriga Nacional (Lisboa).** This pure Touriga Nacional is rich, juicy and perfumed. The tannins of the ripe black fruits are structured supporting the juicy acidity of this mature wine. Drink this matured wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Quinta São Sebastião 2021 Diferido Reserva (Lisboa).** Wood aged, this wine has a fine touch of spice. Its acidity and freshness are a contrast to the wine's ripe tannins and density. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Touriga Nacional, it is likely to age further. Drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**89** **Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 (Lisboa).** Wood aging and ripe fruits are blended together in this generous Syrah. It has a rich character, spice from wood aging and final acidity. Drink from 2025. Suitable for vegans. Organic. Alt Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**89** **Sanguinhal 2019 Quinta de S. Francisco (Lisboa).** With its year in wood, this ripe black wine has rich tannins and the first signs of maturity. It is a rich wine, its black fruits structured while also with juicy acidity in the background. Drink from 2025. Sarmento's Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Aveleda 2021 Mandriola (Lisboa).** Touriga Nacional and Alicante Bouschet are fused in this balanced, approachable wine. Its red fruits are lightly touched with tannins and plenty of juiciness. Drink the wine now. Aveleda Inc. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

**88** **Casa Santos Lima 2022 Topo (Lisboa).** This blend of four varieties including Tinta Roriz and Touriga Nacional is ripe, full of berry fruits. Lightly spicy and structured with tannins, it has a fine juicy character. Drink from later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88** **Casa Santos Lima 2022 Traditional Blend (Lisboa).** A blend that includes the rare and neglected Camarate and Tinta Miuda, the wine is packed with red fruits and soft tannins. Acidity



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provides a contrast to this balanced wine. Drink from later this year. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2021 OMG (Lisboa).** A blend of four varieties gives richness and ripe tannins. Bold and with generous black fruits, the wine was lightly oak aged, giving a spicy aftertaste. Drink this attractive wine now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Quinta São Sebastião 2021 Diferido (Lisboa).** This is a structured wine, its tannins giving a fine shape to the fruit. Blackberry flavors are fresh while exhibiting some density. With its final acidity, the wine could age further. Drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**88 Quinta São Sebastião 2021 Sy-Tr (Lisboa).** As the abbreviation suggests, this a blend of Syrah and Tinta Roriz. The wine is solidly textured and firm with tannins. It does have a fruitier side with blackberry flavors and succulent acidity. The wine needs to age, so drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**87 Adega Mãe 2022 Pinta Negra (Lisboa).** A stinky, young wine with acidity and red fruits, this is fresh and could age a few more months. The juicy acidity of the Castelão and Aragonez blend will soften well, Drink from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$8

**87 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Lab (Lisboa).** A soft and juicy wine with gentle tannins from light oak aging. The wine's red fruits are fresh and fruity, giving a bright aftertaste. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Lisbonita (Lisboa).** The fresh red fruits and soft tannins are a celebration of all things Lisboa shows: packed wine with an open character. There is plenty of acidity to give the wine freshness. Drink from later this year. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Stones & Bones Ligeiro (Lisboa).** A ripe wine with a light touch of acidity and crisp red fruits. It's a fruity wine that has a fresh crispness that is immediately attractive. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Bons Ventos (Lisboa).** The wine is soft, open, black fruits and ripe tannins. The black plum flavors are shot through with acidity. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Touriga Nacional have been easily blended together. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87 Casca Wines 2022 Cabo da Roca (Lisboa).** Young and stinky, the wine is taut, textured and packed with black fruits. Its freshness comes from the layer of acidity that comes through in the aftertaste. Drink the wine now. LGL Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**87 Quinta São Sebastião 2022 Encosta do Forte Special Selection (Lisboa).** This blend of Syrah, Touriga Nacional and Cabernet Sauvignon is juicy and fruity. Red fruits and light tannins are boosted by acidity and a light touch of spice. Drink from later this year. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$11

**87 Sanguinhal 2022 Cerejeiras (Lisboa).** A blend of four varieties, including structured Touriga Nacional and Cabernet Sauvignon, the wine is juicy and generously fruity. It is immediately ready to pour. Drink now. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

**87 Sanguinhal 2021 Península de Lisboa (Lisboa).** This blend of 50/50 Castelão and Aragonez is young and fruity. The wood aging shows in a smooth texture alongside the black currant acidity and fruitiness. It is fresh and needs a little time. Drink from later this year. Sarmento's Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**86 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Portuga (Lisboa).** The wine is soft with red fruits and light acidity. Its structure is easy and approachable, giving a fresh aftertaste. Drink now. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**86 Quinta do Monte d'Oiro 2021 Monarkia das Marias (Lisboa).** A fresh, red fruit-flavored wine, this is juicy and very accessible. The wine is bright, light and very much ready to drink. Alt Wines. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

## TEJO

**91 Fiuza 2022 Babu Reserva (Tejo).** A solid, dense and young wine, this comes a blend of Touriga Nacional and Alicante Bouschet. It has balance, the two varieties complementing each other with their perfumed richness. It needs to age, so drink from 2025. Votto Vines Importing. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**91 Quinta da Alorna 2019 Touriga Nacional - Cabernet Sauvignon Reserva (Tejo).** The aristocratic estate of Alorna with its terraces and handsome stables has produced a rich blend bringing together two equally well-bred varieties. The wine's black fruits and solid tannins are now well mature,

giving a smooth character to the wood-aged wine. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**90 Fiuza 2022 Eminente Reserva (Tejo).** For full review see page 26. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Fiuza 2022 Escriba Reserva (Tejo).** The wine is structured with a firm core backing layers of black fruits. Blending Touriga Nacional and Sousão, it is rich and generous, the texture a fine mix of spice and fruitiness. Worth aging, it will be best from 2025. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**89 Fiuza 2022 3 Castas Reserva (Tejo).** The blend of three varieties, Touriga Nacional, Alicante Bouschet and Sousão, is deep-colored and smoothly textured. While it is young, it is possible to discern the ripe potential of the black fruits in this wood-aged wine. Drink from 2025. Votto Vines Importing. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Fiuza 2022 Canto do Pedro Vinhas Velhas Reserva (Tejo).** The "Song of Pedro" is a soft-centered wine with ripe tannins and black fruits. With a rich backdrop, and acidity and spice to the fore, the wine needs to age. Drink from 2025. 4Front Imports, LLC. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Fiuza 2022 Silent Oak Reserva (Tejo).** A soft, lightly oak-aged wine, it has layers of red fruits and the lightest tannins. With its structure and spicy flavors, the wine is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Quinta da Alorna 2021 Touriga Nacional (Tejo).** The warmth of the Tejo region shines through in this ripe, spicy wine. With perfumes and a layer of solid tannins, the wine's blackberry fruits are rich and generous. The wine should age further; drink from 2025. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88 Quinta da Alorna 2019 Colheita (Tejo).** Rounded while also juicy, the wine has soft tannins, lightened by acidity. A blend of Syrah, Alicante Bouschet, Castelão and Tinta Roriz, it is an attractive, open wine that is ready to drink. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**87 Quinta da Alorna 2021 Lutra (Tejo).** Named after the otter, this wine takes its inspiration from the nearby Tejo (Tagus) river. It is soft and fruity; its smooth tannins and red berry fruits are laced with acidity. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

## ALENTEJANO

**93 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2019 Garrafeira (Alentejano).** This wine is from the first harvest of a new Amorim mountain vineyard on the estate. A straightforward blend of Alicante Bouschet and Aragones brings major richness to this fine, bold wine. Tannins and rich berry flavors are powerful and concentrated. Drink this impressive wine from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$133

**93 Herdade dos Grous 2021 Moon Harvested (Alentejano).** For full review see page 12. Aidil Wines/Old World Import.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**92 Casa Santos Lima 2020 Completo Grande Reserva (Alentejano).** From a single parcel, this ripe and perfumed Touriga Nacional offers ripe tannins that are still softening. It has power and a dense texture, given further richness by 18 months in wood. The aftertaste shows the youth of the wine with its juicy acidity. Drink from 2026. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**92 Herdade Aldeia de Cima 2020 Reserva (Alentejano).** The richness of Alicante Bouschet dominates this fine, dense wine. Black fruits and amphora aging give both ripeness and a texture that is smooth. The wine's tannins with acidity are softening, meaning it needs to age further. Drink from 2025. Wein Bauer Inc. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Herdade dos Grous 2021 23 Barricas (Alentejano).** For full review see page 17. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**91 Herdade dos Grous 2019 Reserva (Alentejano).** Long aging in wood has given this wine a dense, spicy character. While it is maturing, its black fruits are backed by layers of firm tannins and lifted by acidity. Its future is excellent, worth aging and drinking further from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90 Adega do Monte Branco 2019 Alento Reserva (Alentejano).** The wine is now mature, with rich tannins and black fruit flavors. It is a juicy, fruity wine, spicy wine that is rich and structured. Although the wine is ready to drink, it will also age well. Drink up to 2025. Alt Wines. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Valcatrina (Alentejano).** This is a rich wine, smoothly textured and with a spicy character from wood aging. Dense and full of blackberry flavors and tannins, the wine is ready to age further. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Herdade dos Grous 2021 (Alentejano).** Partial wood aging has given this wine richness and density. Acidity is an important element in the wine, bringing out the freshness of the black fruits. It is juicy and needs further aging. Drink from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$21

**89 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Monte Perdido (Alentejano).** The wine is all fruit with just a touch of toastiness and layers of smokiness. Black fruits and structured tannins come together in this blend of Touriga Nacional, Syrah and Alicante Bouschet. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**89 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Monte Perdido (Alentejano).** This is a ripe, young and juicy wine with soft tannins and ripe black fruits. A four-way blend of Touriga Nacional, Syrah, Aragonez and Alicante Bouschet, this is an open, warm wine that will be ready from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Rebelde (Alentejano).** The light aging in wood has given this wine a spicy character to balance with the juicy black fruits. A blend of four varieties including Syrah and Touriga Nacional, the wine is ripe and full-bodied. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**88 Pista Wines 2022 Tapada da Fonte (Alentejano).** Warm black fruit and generous tannins mark out this wood-aged wine. A blend of three varieties, Touriga Nacional, Syrah and Petit Verdot, the wine has young structure supporting its black fruits. It needs aging, so wait until 2025. PIE Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**87 Adega do Monte Branco 2022 Monte Moinho (Alentejano).** Ripe and soft, this immediately drinkable wine is a blend of Aragonez, Trincadeira and a touch of Syrah. It is juicy, fresh with red fruits and soft tannins. Drink now. Alt Wines. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$11

**87 Wines & Winemakers 2018 Azul Portugal (Alentejano).** The warmth of Alentejo is balanced by the rich black fruits and smoky tannins to give a ripe, black-fruited wine. It is a full wine but one so driven by acidity that is fresh and fruity. Drink now. Asgram LLC. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$13

**86 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Hat Trick (Alentejano).** Spicy and full of ripe black fruits with tannins and acidity, this is a juicy wine that is ready to drink. Tri-Vin Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

## ALENTEJO

**94 J. Portugal Ramos 2019 Estremus (Alentejo).** The wine originates in a small parcel of soil specked with marble for which the city of Estremoz is well-known. It is a powerful blend of Alicante Bouschet and Trincadeira. Dark in color, massive in texture, the wine is mineral and spice driven. Aged in new wood, the wine is worth aging further. Drink from 2026. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$150

**93 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2018 Grande Reserva (Alentejo).** For full review see page 12. MS Walker. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$59

**92 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2019 Touriga Nacional Reserva (Alentejo).** Fermented in marble-lined lagars, this wood-aged wine shows the richness of Touriga Nacional in the heat of Alentejo. It has perfume, power and solid tannins. These are set against the rich black fruits and firm structure of this full wine. Drink from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Dona Maria-Júlio Bastos 2019 Amantis Reserva (Alentejo).** This blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Petit Verdot and Touriga Nacional is richly endowed. Its bold black fruits and tannins give the wine density and a firm structure that will age further and soften. Drink the wine from 2024. MS Walker. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 J. Portugal Ramos 2021 Marquês de Borba Vinhas Velhas (Alentejo).** This popular Portuguese brand reaches its apogee in this rich, dense wine from old vines of Alicante Bouschet, Aragonez, Castelão and Syrah. It is powerfully structured, its black fruits layered with acidity and spice from wood aging. Drink from 2025. Aidil Wines/Old World Import. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Quinta das Arcas 2021 Herdade de Penedo Gordo (Alentejo).** Alicante Bouschet lends its weight and color to this full, concentrated wine. Black fruits and ripe tannins come with spice and structure. The wine is young and has plenty of potential. Drink from 2024. Suitable for vegans. Wine Bridge Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$16

**88 Quinta das Arcas 2021 Penedo Gordo (Alentejo).** A harmonious blend of four varieties, the wine is rich, full and densely textured. Its black fruits and ripe tannins give it a soft, open feel. There is a fresh edge from the layer of acidity balancing the wine. Drink from late 2024. Suitable for vegans. Wine Bridge Imports. *Best Buy.* —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Ségur Estates 2021 Redondo Reserva Single Block (Alentejo).** A finely wood-aged wine, this has fine acidity alongside the ripe black fruits.

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It has a touch of spice from the wood aging and a succulent aftertaste. Drink now. Brands of Portugal. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$15

## OTHER RED WINES

**91 Wines & Winemakers 2016 Secretum Vinhas Velhas (Palmela).** This wine is made from pure Castelão, the signature grape variety of Palmela. It is ripe, mature with a strong spicy character and rich tannins from 12 months in wood. Juicy black fruits bring freshness to the wine's density. Drink now. Costa Nova. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**90 Casa Santos Lima 2021 Castelo de Tavira (Algarve).** A wine from the southern coast of Portugal, the Algarve, this is ripe, juicy and with layers of spice. It is a solid wine, with dry tannins and the potential for aging. Touriga Nacional, Syrah and Negra Mole, a variety from Madeira, make structured wine that will age. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**89 Casa Santos Lima 2022 Pitch Reserva (Algarve).** This blend of Alicante Bouschet, Syrah and Touriga Nacional is rich and dense. Its concentration brings out spice and black tannins giving a structured wine. Juicy acidity gives the wine final freshness. Drink from 2025. Multiple U.S. importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Messias 2018 Quinta do Valdeiro (Bairrada).** The wine, now smoothly textured, is ripe with a good balance between fruit and structure. Black currant fruits come through strongly in a wine whose acidity is now succulent. Dominated by Syrah but with a good proportion of the local Baga, the wine is now ready to drink. Direct Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Wines & Winemakers 2019 Secretum Reserva (Palmela).** This rich, smoky wine is packed with black fruits and soft tannins. Driven by the Castelão grape that dominates the blend, the wine is full and spicy. Juicy black fruits bring freshness. Drink now. Costa Nova. —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**88 Wines & Winemakers 2021 Monte da Baía Reserva (Península de Setúbal).** Produced by Casa Ermelinda Freitas in Setúbal, the wine is a rich blend of four varieties. Already smooth, it has ripe tannins, layers of acidity and succulent black fruits. To really come together, it needs some more time, so drink from late this year. Specialty Wines & More. **Best Buy.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

## PORT

**99 Quinta do Noval 2021 Nacional Vintage (Port).** This is the latest release of Noval's legendary Port. It comes from a small parcel, almost like a kitchen garden, of rare ungrafted vines (planted on their own rootstock). The intensity and richness of the wine proclaim its pedigree and enormous potential. The black fruits and ripe tannins are laced with spirit and ripe sweetness. Acidity and perfumes also play their part, giving a wine that is almost immortal. Drink at the earliest from 2032. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$1500

**96 Quinta do Noval 2021 Vintage (Port).** Coming from the landmark Douro terraces of Quinta do Noval, this beautifully perfumed and textured Vintage Port is certainly ageworthy. The ripe tannins and blackberry jelly fruits are concentrated and show the quinta's hallmark medium sweet style of Port. That leaves room for the fine texture and structured young tannins and shows the potential. Drink the wine from 2030. Vintus LLC. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$140

**95 Quinta das Carvalhas NV 50 Years Old Tawny (Port).** For full review see page 5. Park Street Imports.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$300

**93 Quinta do Vallado 2021 Vintage (Port).** Unusually for a Vintage Port, this was not aged in wood but in stainless steel tanks. It certainly has preserved freshness in the black fruits, tannins and dense sweetness. The wine comes from old vines at Quinta do Vallado, giving density and a texture that demands long-term aging. Drink from 2030. Quintessential. **Cellar Selection.** —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$110

**92 Messias 2011 Colheita Tawny (Port).** Aged in wood, this tawny style of Port is moving effortlessly from fruit to the flavors of wood and spice, backed by spirit. It is a fine wine that is ready to drink. Direct Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$30

**90 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos NV Quinta das Herédias 10 Years Old Tawny (Port).** This Port, dark gold and on the cusp of turning from wine to concentrated wood-aging flavors, is rich and full. It is dense with its caramel sweetness contrasting with a dry core of spirit and spice. Drink now. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Messias NV 10 Años Tawny (Port).** Aged for 10 years in wood before bottling, this rich Port is showing well, its spice and density balanced with dried fruits and an edge of tannins. It is ready to drink now. Direct Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$30

**90 Messias 2020 (Port).** The Messias Port style is rich with sweet black fruits. This is right in the style with layers of tannins to spice and touches of spirit. It will certainly age well, and is likely to be ready from 2029. Direct Wine Imports. —R.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$90

**90 Quevedo 2009 White Colheita (Port).** This wood-aged Port from white varieties was aged in wood from 2009. It is a rich wine, gold in color, proving that all aged Port moves to the same nutty flavors. It's a fine wine, dense with great acidity and maturity. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19% **Price:** \$55

**90 Quinta do Portal 2014 Colheita (Port).** Aged in old wood, this Port has richness. It still shows its black fruits as much as the wood flavors and spice. The wine is sweet and, now bottled, is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$75

**90 Quinta do Vallado 2019 Porto LBV (Port).** While it has been bottled ready to drink, this fine Late Bottled Vintage will profit for further bottle aging. It has structure set against the sweeter black fruits. Drink this Port now or ideally from 2025. Quintessential. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos NV Quinta das Herédias Ruby Reserve (Port).** Perfumed and ripe, this young Port, aged in wood for a short period, is now mature. Ready to drink, it shows sweet red fruits that are balanced by a touch of acidity. The spirit, well-integrated, just adds its bite at the end. Drink now. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Quevedo 2018 Late Bottled Vintage (Port).** A rich, sweet style of Port well-aged in wood, its texture has been smoothed by the aging, giving a wine that is ripe, dense, full of dried fruits and a touch of acidity. Drink now. P.R. Grisley Company. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 Magnum Carlos Lucas Vinhos NV Quinta das Herédias Finest Reserva Tawny (Port).** From this quinta in the Cima Corgo region, the old golden Port from a field blend is nutty with dried raisin and sweetness. The wine is full, bottled ready to drink. Iberian Wine Importers. —R.V.  
**abv:** 19.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Quinta do Portal 2018 Right on Time! LBC (Port).** Aged for four years in older barrels, this Port is soft and full of sweet black fruits. The wine's spicy texture shows touches of spirit and a hint of acidity. The wine is ready to drink. M Imports, LLC. —R.V.  
**abv:** 20% **Price:** \$32



# GERMANY

## RIESLING

**95 Dr. Bürklin-Wolf 2021 Gaisböhl [Monopol GC Trocken Riesling (Pfalz)].** There's a flinty quality to this rather young, but beautifully put-together white, which is framed by firm acidity, while displaying flavors of sea salt-accented smoke, quince, lemon curd, honeysuckle and wet stone. This is really centered around its minerality and texture, with all the other pieces just adding to the symphony. It is sleek and elegant and will only show its best in years to come. Best after 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$95

**94 A.J. Adam 2022 Hofberg GG Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** A classic example of Mosel Riesling with an elegant, floral profile, showing lavender and apple flavors, with a silky texture and an intense mineral core. Very well integrated, with the fleur de sel component persistently echoing on the back end, ending with a lingering finish. Delicious already, but it will only get better in the next few years. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$74

**94 Spreitzer 2021 Wisselbrunnen GG Trocken Riesling (Rheingau).** A well-balanced, mineral-driven version that opens up with a flinty note, this features a corduroy-like texture—smooth, yet crunchy and firm but well-integrated acidity. Displays notes of apricot, baked pear, lanolin and sage honey at the core, while the finish is marked by a streak of savory elements. Best after 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**93 Dr. Bürklin-Wolf 2021 Langenmorgen GC Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** Leaner and vertical style, with a beautifully balanced profile, showing aromatic thread of pine forest winding through flavors of apricot, pineapple, lime, ground ginger and anise. The prominent, mouth-watering acidity plays off a silky texture, adding a slight crunch on the finish that will fade away with cellaring. Best after 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$124

**93 Müller-Catoir 2022 Bürgergarten Riesling (Pfalz).** Aromas of dried mint and sage mark the bouquet of this wine, while apple, guava and lemongrass notes take over on the palate. This is vibrant and elegant, delicate in flavor, but very persistent. All the elements promise to develop nicely, as this is built for the long haul. Best after 2026. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$80

**93 Selbach-Oster 2021 Zeltinger Schlossberg GG Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** Beautifully balanced, with an aromatic thread of pine and elderflower winding through flavors of dried apricot, papaya, crystallized honey, toasted almond, ground ginger and anise. The racy, mouth-watering acid-

ity plays off a silky, mouth-coating texture, giving it a slight crunch on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$47

**92 Dönnhoff 2022 Norheimer Kirschheck Spätlese Riesling (Nahe).** There is a whiff of pine that is followed by juicy nectarine and macerated apricot notes in this lush spätlese. It's balanced and very expressive, with prominent acidity that flows authoritatively, but it is well merged with the rest of the elements. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Schlossgut Diel 2021 Pittermännchen GG Trocken Riesling (Nahe).** The powerful acidity still needs more time to integrate, but this spiced and rich-tasting Riesling shows nice complexity with mouth-coating texture, plenty of savory mineral and flavors of ripe peach, pear tart and dried apricot. The complexity keeps playing out on the finish. Best after 2027. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$80

**91 Carl Loewen 2022 Thörnicher Ritsch GG Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** This is delicate and crunchy, with a very floral profile, displaying notes of jasmine, orange blossom, peach and white raspberry, supported by vibrant acidity. Mineral and spice details show on the fresh-tasting finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$55

**91 Dönnhoff 2022 Felsenberg GG Trocken Riesling (Nahe).** Has a savory allure, with intense acidity lending a bright profile and balancing out juicy flavors of nectarine and lemon curd, revealing hints of anise and tarragon. Long and expressive midpalate extends to the focused, mouth-watering finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$95

**91 Dönnhoff 2022 Niederhäuser Klamm Kabinett Riesling (Nahe).** Alluring aromas of Gala apple and mineral mark this vibrant, pure Riesling, which is firm yet harmonious, with a lingering after-taste of baking spice and elderflower syrup. Shows excellent length. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Schloss Lieser 2022 Juffer Sonnenuhr GG Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** A graceful, fruit-driven version, offering orchard-blossom aromas, while the palate exhibits persimmon, nectarine, pear, jasmine and lime notes. Silky in texture, with bracing acidity giving this vibrancy and carrying it to a well-balanced and complex finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$72

**91 Von Winning 2021 Kieselberg GG Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** A unique, oak-influenced style, with baking-spice accents that surround the core of nectarine, passion fruit and currant flavors. Shows balance and intensity, with salted butter and burnt brown-sugar notes emerging on the persistent fin-

ish. For the fans of the style. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**90 Dönnhoff 2022 Höllenspfad im Mühlenberg GG Trocken Riesling (Nahe).** This is lean, with crystalline acidity underscoring the flavors of apple and gooseberry that are bright, fresh and accented by savory details. Powerful notes of stony mineral and white pepper emerge on the direct finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$85

**90 Hexamer 2022 Porphyries Riesling (Nahe).** This shows great purity to the floral and fruit notes that mingle with the silky texture in this appealing Riesling. There is a vibrant underlying structure supporting the quince blossom, white raspberry and cardamom notes as this glides to a long finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Kruger-Rumpf 2022 Abtei Riesling (Nahe).** Fruit-driven style featuring ripe apple, nectarine and papaya, layered with rich spice and custard notes. It is steely and vibrant, with a mineral-infused finish that also includes fennel and honeysuckle notes. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**90 Kruger-Rumpf 2022 Dry Riesling (Nahe).** This is lean but charming, featuring a seductive, citrusy spice aroma, with long, unctuous flavors of apple pie and pear tart. Delivers a supple mouthfeel, showing ginger snap and elderflower accents on the silky finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Kruger-Rumpf 2022 Im Pitterberg GG Trocken Riesling (Nahe).** Quite zesty, featuring orange and ginger hints behind the mix of orchard and stone fruit. Light, but shows intensity and enough oomph, with slate and spice elements adding interest in the midpalate. Inviting finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$53

**90 Kruger-Rumpf 2022 Im Pitterberg Kabinett Riesling (Nahe).** This is packed with pear, honeysuckle, chamomile and wet stone elements, allied with a sleek, sophisticated frame. Everything is in the right place as this shows harmony and persistence on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Künstler 2022 Hochheimer Kirchenstück Im Stein Riesling (Rheingau).** A delicate, dry Riesling, featuring peach, grapefruit and passion fruit notes underscored by vibrant acidity. There's fine harmony and length, with a stony aftertaste. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Nik Weis 2021 Mehlinger Layet GG Dry Riesling (Mosel).** A razor-sharp style, but with nice plushness too, this offers pear, apricot and

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green plum notes flecked with sea salt, fresh herbs and lime zest. Reveals a citrusy beam of acidity that crackles through the savory, stony finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$64

**90 Selbach-Oster 2021 Bernkastler Graben GG Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** A pretty, aromatic white, this is finely knit with its delicate flavors of honeydew melon, peach, orange zest and spice. Dry and tangy, with lovely purity of flavor and balance. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Carl Loewen 2022 Detzemer Maximin Klosterlay Trocken Riesling (Mosel).** Fresh and pure-tasting, with zesty flavors of ripe Meyer lemon, grapefruit, quince and gooseberry. The bracing minerality on the finish is supported by plenty of crisp acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$33

**89 Dönnhoff 2022 Riesling (Nahe).** A friendly, off-dry version, with an array of orchard and stone-fruit flavors, which are juicy and fresh tasting. Bright acidity gives it a vibrant feel throughout. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Dönnhoff 2022 Tonschiefer Dry Slate Riesling (Nahe).** A zesty, vibrant style, with candied orange peel, lemon zest and ginger notes that build in on the moderately long finish. Savory mineral hints echo on the palate. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Kruger-Rumpf 2022 Riesling (Nahe).** Charming, with tiniest hints of sweetness highlighting the baked apple, glazed peach and pear tart. Long and mouth watering on the finish, offering a savory herb note. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Künstler 2022 Trocken Riesling (Rheingau).** Elegant and vibrant, yet very expressive, featuring savory notes that accent white plum, beeswax and white-currant flavors. The finish features touches of ripeness and lush acidity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Von Winning 2022 Reiterpfad EL Trocken Riesling (Pfalz).** A light, open-textured white, with brown spice and orchard fruit core. Lacy and backed by a firm structure, ending in an inviting aftertaste. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$37

**89 Von Winning 2022 Winnings Riesling (Pfalz).** Redolent of nectarine and grated lemon zest, with notes of orchard blossom and honey-suckle. Lively and fresh tasting, offers a lightly spiced finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Dönnhoff 2022 Trocken Riesling (Nahe).** There's lots of zest in this precise Riesling, which features fresh flavors of lemon, bergamot and peach. The spice-infused finish is moderately long. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Kruger-Rumpf 2021 Riesling (Nahe).** Crisp, offering a saline tang to the ripe lime, apple and lemon-zest flavors. Finishes on a savory note, with plenty of freshness and moderate length. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Von Buhl 2022 Bone Dry Riesling (Pfalz).** This shows powerful acidity, which is the hallmark, but notes of apple and green peach bring out some pleasure. Spice elements add to the complexity on the finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26

**87 Nik Weis 2022 St. Urbans-Hof Mehringer Alte Reben Riesling (Mosel).** This shows hints of petrol and pine nut, followed by mint, green apple and golden berry flavors. Medium length. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$35

**87 Schäfer 2021 Made with Organic Grapes Dry-Style Riesling (Rheinhessen).** Very crisp, with plenty of savoriness to the flavors of green apple and dried mango, which are quite zesty. There's a hint of mint tea on the fresh finish. Wine-sellers, Ltd. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$17

**86 Georg Breuer 2021 GB Charm Riesling (Rheingau).** Crunchy and refreshing, with green apple and Bosc pear flavors. Light and spicy on the lifting finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$21

**85 Nebel 2022 Riesling (Rheinhessen).** A spry version, with notes of sea salt to the green apple, mineral and ripe lime flavors. Savory accents show on the dry finish. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$12

**84 St. Michael Weinkellerei 2022 Riesling (Rheinhessen).** A direct version, with notes of elderflower and peach. Features a slight fizz that adds vibrancy. Tri-Vin Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10% **Price:** \$22

**84 Trullo 2022 Riesling (Rheinhessen).** A bright white, with lemon-lime flavors and fresh acidity, with notes of ripe melon and spice at the core. It is modest on the finish. Marchetti Co.. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$13

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**89 Hans Wirsching 2022 Estate Trocken Scheurebe (Franken).** Very floral and friendly, with an elegant profile and mouth-coating

texture. Candied tangerine note lingers on the inviting finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$26

**88 Dautel 2022 Weissburgunder (Württemberg).** There is a good cut to the crisp pear notes with lively acidity and mineral elements that emerge midpalate, giving this a lift. Light spice on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

## SPARKLING WINES

**93 Von Buhl 2019 Brut Riesling (Pfalz).** A finely detailed sekt, with prominent bubbles energetically dancing on the palate. They help bring out a complex, layered range of nectarine, white raspberry, candied ginger, brioche, lightly roasted nuts and hints of sea salt. Chalky grip and saline accents mark the long, inviting finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$46

**91 Von Buhl 2019 Rosé Brut Sparkling Blend (Pfalz).** This sparkler beats to its own drum, with graphite and red-pepper notes upfront, but then the finely detailed, layered profile starts peaking out, showing a mix of red-fleshed peach, blanched almond, spun honey, cardamom and bergamot. Shows character, but also its friendly side, with a finely knit finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$58

**88 Lucashof 2022 Pet Nat Naturel Riesling (Pfalz).** An unfiltered sparkler, with vibrant notes of apple and spices and soft hints of sourdough. It is very charming and tasty with subtle effervescence and lemony notes bringing zest through the moderate finish. HB Wine Merchants. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$32

**86 Fitz-Ritter NV Brut Weisser Burgunder (Pfalz).** Dry with tightly knit notes of yellow apple, anise, brioche and grapefruit. Balanced and tangy, leading to a lime-tinged finish. Winesellers, Ltd. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$18

## ROSÉS

**90 Weingut Schmitt 2020 Frei.Körper.Kultur Rosé (Germany).** An idiosyncratic rosé, neon pink in color, showing zesty, funky aromas, which extend to the palate. It is super vibrant, with light tannins and lively acidity that support notes of raspberry and red currant. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$28/1L

**89 Meyer-Näkel 2022 Rosé (Ahr).** A pure, fresh and vibrant style, with white peach, wet stone and macerated cherry notes that glide along,

laced with a talc hint through the elegant finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Schnaitmann 2022 Steinwiege Muskat-trollinger Rosé (Württemberg).** There is great clarity to the berry and cherry flavors in this aromatic version, with plenty of mineral and spice notes. The long finish lingers with rose hip, cardamom and hints of red peach. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$26

**88 Von Buhl 2022 Bone Dry Rosé (Pfalz).** This shows a slightly deeper color than most of its peers and displays flavors of cherry and violet, with a squeaky clean profile. Moderate length. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$26

**87 Lucashof 2022 Trocken Rosé (Pfalz).** Dried cherry flavors and spice notes make this lively and friendly. Vanilla bean notes mark the moderate finish. HB Wine Merchants. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 Mont'Albano 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Germany).** Features a zippy frame, with orange zest upfront, while watermelon rind and white cherry fruit hangs through the finish. Wein Bauer Inc. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$12

## RED WINES

**94 Schnaitmann 2020 Lämmli GG Lemberger (Württemberg).** A richly flavored, multi-layered red, with intriguing notes of sanguine and tar upfront, turning to seductive flavors of stewed plum, hoisin sauce and espresso that lead to a deep well of blackberry, cassis, forest floor and loam. Dark-chocolate and orange-peel elements fill the long, seductive finish. This is only getting started. Drink now–2035. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**92 Friedrich Becker 2017 Sankt Paul Pinot Noir (Pfalz).** An intense red, evoking violet, sanguine, black currant, blueberry and iron aromas and flavors. It is expressive, but very firmly structured and will need a bit more time to soften up its tannins. It shows terrific complexity and length on the savory finish. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA/375 ml

**91 Schnaitmann 2022 Alte Reben Trollinger (Württemberg).** This is light and juicy, with an elegant profile, featuring a silky texture and well-integrated chalky tannins. Notes of plum and cassis mingle with Turkish coffee and rose hip at the core, while savory herbal elements and a mineral structure glide along the edges. Complete and inviting. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$38

**91 Schnaitmann 2019 Simonroth Merlot (Württemberg).** This has a beautiful nose of crushed berry, spices and bay leaf, with a hint of olive tapenade. It is medium bodied, with slightly grippy tannins that soften up with air. The long finish of bramble and licorice add beautifully to the overall experience. The German Wine Collection. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

## AUSTRIA

### GRÜNER VELTLINER

**92 Bernhard Ott 2022 Am Berg Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** This is light on its feet, but generous in its offering, featuring aromas of rose petal and peach blossom, with prominent and expressive flavors of white raspberry, pear, flint and spice. It finishes with a mouth-watering, spice- and mineral-infused note. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**92 Bründlmayer 2022 Ried Berg Vogelsang Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** This white offers nectarine flavors accented by verbena and white-pepper wisps presented on an elegant frame. Very expressive for a lighter wine, with a sensuous and mouth-watering impression on the finish. There is a very slight grip, which provides an extra textural component. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Alzinger 2022 Ried Mühlpoint Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** A juicy acidity leads the powerful flavors of pear, dried pineapple and apricot in this bracing white. Hints of white chocolate lend added complexity and intrigue, culminating in a voluptuous finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Bernhard Ott 2022 Fass 4 Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** Complex and focused, with nuances of kiwi, durian and ruby grapefruit and featuring hints of white pepper and wet stone. Long and graceful on the finish, delivering impressively spiced character with shaved ginger and savory mineral. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Bründlmayer 2022 Langenloiser Alte Reben Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** An elegant and expressive white, with concentrated aromas and flavors of tobacco, lentil, white pepper, lemon, apricot and hints of blanched almond. The complex finish is seductively smoky and spicy, with a delicate, mineral essence. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Nigl 2022 Freiheit Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** This offers an aromatic, verbena note upfront mixed with honeysuckle and fresh flavors of gooseberry, cardamom and orange peel. It

is seductively vivacious, showing good focus on the mouthwatering finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Alzinger 2022 Dürnstein Federspiel Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** Graceful with a mineral crunch adding to the notes of apple and lime, all backed by a firm backbone of acidity. This is a rather delicate example, with nice floral highlights and a sea-salt note, which would all match beautifully with smoked fish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Fuhrgassl-Huber 2021 Ried Gollin Nussberg Grüner Veltliner (Vienna).** A creamy, full-bodied style, with plenty of ripe peach and apricot flavors that are accented by lots of white pepper and sea-salt notes. The finish is plush and spicy with an echoing beeswax note. For the fans of the style. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**90 Hiedler 2022 Löss Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** Firm and well structured, with fine concentration for a silky wine. There are yellow apple, nectarine and hominy flavors, shaded by notes of lemon meringue and spice. It is a classic example with a spice-infused finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Soellner 2022 Hengstberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram).** A sleek white, featuring green pea, green apple and tobacco notes, laden with hints of porcini. Racy acidity imparts lift with a tactile sensation on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. *Best Buy.* —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Weinhofmeisterei Mathias Hirtzberger 2022 Treu Grüner Veltliner (Wachau).** This shows nice complexity combined with elegance and offers a charming mix of snap pea, lemon and nectarine flavors that are powerful, and backed up by juicy acidity. The finish offers notes of tobacco and white chocolate. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Fuhrgassl-Huber 2020 FGH Schönherr Grüner Veltliner (Vienna).** Glossy white, with flavors of mineral, lentil, glazed citrus and smoke. There's lots of spice, including turmeric and coriander, on the rich finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

**89 Glatzer 2022 Grüner Veltliner (Carnuntum).** A sleek white featuring lentil, green apple and lime notes, laden with hints of fresh tobacco. Racy acidity imparts lift and leads this to a tactile, mineral finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Hirsch 2022 Hirschvergnügen Grüner Veltliner (Kamptal).** This is light and crisp and very minerally, with focused pear, apple and peach



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flavors. Finishes pure and precise with appealing herbal notes. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Soellner 2022 Danubio Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** A vibrant, mineral-driven white, with sea salt and white pepper framing the core of ripe citrus and quince at the core, while chamomile echoes on the moderately long finish. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Soellner 2022 Toni Grüner Veltliner (Wagram).** A classic Grüner Veltliner expression, with the notes of lentil, white peach, smoke and milled pepper. It is very light and elegant with a refreshing finish. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Soellner 2019 Goldberg Grüner Veltliner (Wagram).** A mix of sourdough and salted butter open up this white, while flavors of lemon and ruby grapefruit dominate the midpalate. Crunchy mineral and spice notes mark the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$11

**88 Aigner 2022 Krems Sandgrube Grüner Veltliner (Kremstal).** Well-balanced, with flavors of apple and dried apricot and hints of fleur de sel all supported by firm acidity. Remains focused on the moderately long finish. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Bründlmayer 2022 L & T Grüner Veltliner (Niederösterreich).** Very vibrant on the palate, showing chamomile, lemon and white pepper aromas and flavors in a light-bodied frame. Fine focus on the moderate finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Soellner 2022 Wogenrain Grüner Veltliner (Wagram).** This is layered and nuanced with mouth-watering acidity and a streak of smoky minerality that drive the flavors of orchard and stone fruit. Moderate length. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**92 Weingut Kögl 2017 Mantis Spätfüllung Sauvignon Blanc (Steierland).** This shows signs of maturity, but still has plenty of zip, with a bracing salted butter note streaking through the core of Meyer lemon, straw and hazelnut. It is silky in texture and the finish is long and mouth watering with a subtle turmeric note. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Ernst Triebaumer 2020 Ried Vogelsang Sauvignon Blanc (Burgenland).** This white shows lovely precision, with a beautiful aroma of verbena

backed by racy hints of flint, chive, straw and gooseberry notes. The finish is long and inviting, turning a bit tropical, luring you in for more. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Hannes Sabathi 2020 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark).** This is velvety with a very juicy core, featuring a delicious core of lemon verbena and gooseberry laced with hints of nectarine, white peach and savory mineral. The finish is long and fresh, with salty and flint accents adding a compelling feel underneath. Bliss Wine Imports. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 Hannes Sabathi 2020 Ried Dirnbeck Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark).** Very fresh, with an enticing mix of fresh tarragon and shiso leaf mingling with notes of gooseberry, flint and fleur de sel. The finish is long, with a mineral crunch adding to the overall experience. Bliss Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Hannes Sabathi 2020 Ried Kranachberg Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark).** Lovely singed lemon peel, white peach and honeysuckle notes form the core, while racy thyme and verbena accents glide along the edges. Shows a flash of clementine through the finish. Bliss Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Aigner 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Niederösterreich).** This expresses white tea and flint notes, with a backdrop of kiwi and lime that hang through the finish. Light bodied, mouth watering and persistent. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$18

**89 Weingut Kögl 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Südsteiermark).** This is pretty classic, with straw, peach, lime curd and yellow-apple flavors. It is light and vibrant with verbena and honeysuckle details that glide towards the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$23

## RIESLING

**89 Aigner 2022 Krems Riesling (Kremstal).** This shows a lot of ripeness, with a suave texture, displaying a mix of melon, papaya, lemon and ginger. Delivers enough acidity to keep all the elements intact. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Alzinger 2022 Dürnstein Federspiel Riesling (Wachau).** Intense minerality is the hallmark of this zesty white, which features flavors of crisp apple, kiwi, lime and sage. Appealing earthy notes emerge on the finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Hirsch 2022 Zöbing Riesling (Kamptal).** This shows enticing aromas and flavors of apple, peach, ginger and mineral, with hints of cardamom and ground ginger. The long, crunchy finish features pie-crust notes. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Schlosskellerei Gobelsburg 2022 Riesling (Kamptal).** Delicate and firm, offering a floral caste to the nectarine, pineapple and grapefruit flavors, with notes of lime on the finish. It is vibrant and easy to enjoy. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

## CHARDONNAY

**92 Gernot and Heike Heinrich 2022 Chardonnay (Leithaberg).** A lovely, clean-cut style, with vanilla spice, nutmeg and hints of salted butter framing the core of peach and apple fruit. It is pretty linear, thanks to its focused acidity, which cuts through and delivers a long, mouth-watering finish. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Hannes Sabathi 2020 Ried Jägerberg Chardonnay (Südsteiermark).** This white is round and juicy, with a driving acidity defining its notes of peach, melon and Meyer lemon flavors. It is silky and polished, with a precise and long mineral-infused finish. Bliss Wine Imports. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**90 Prieler 2022 Schützen Am Gebirge Sinner Chardonnay (Burgenland).** This is richer in style, with an expressive palate, exhibiting peach, lemon, floral and stone flavors. Balanced by bright acidity, this white remains focused and resonant on the long finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Soellner 2021 Berg Eisenhut Roter Veltliner (Wagram).** Apple and cream flavors dominate this juicy white, with vanilla and cardamom spice accents. The acidity is prominent, underscoring the rich palate, while mineral and smoke details add to the complexity on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90 Schmelzer 2018 Trocken Weissburgunder (Austria).** Medium bodied, this white opens up with elderflower, honeysuckle and ground ginger notes, followed by Bosc pear flavors. Seductive in texture, showing crunchy minerality and a long finish marked by a flinty detail. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**90 Soellner 2022 Von Gösing Roter Veltliner (Wagram).** This is a medium-bodied white with an array of mineral, peach, spice and melon flavors. The structure is impressive, with a long,

vibrant finish, filled with white pepper and citrus notes. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Weingut Kögl 2021 Niemandland Gelber Muskateller (Steierland).** This medium-bodied and aromatic white is bright with citrusy acidity providing a tangy edge to the lovely range of elderflower, prickly pear and chrysanthemum. It is charming, with good length on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% **Price:** \$27

**90 Weingut Kögl 2018 Alte Reben Welschriesling (Steiermark).** A zesty white, with lime, white raspberry vanilla and savory mineral flavors. This evolves in the glass, revealing multiple layers after each sip, with prominent acidity keeping all the elements together. Long finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% **Price:** \$27

**89 Prieler 2022 Schützen Am Gebirge Ried Seeburg Pinot Blanc (Burgenland).** This refined white offers delicate acidity that underscores the flavors of yellow apple, oolong tea, slivered almond and a hint of honeysuckle. Shows lovely balance and good length. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Weingut Kögl 2019 Ehrenhausen Morillon (Südsteiermark).** This is very classic in style with orchard blossom, straw and Gala apple notes, while the orange-like acidity gives this drive and energy. Shows minerality and elegance on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% **Price:** \$26

**88 Winzerin Birgit Wiederstein 2022 Anna Blume Dada Hárslevelü (Niederösterreich).** A lean, defined white, displaying lemon, apple and oyster-shell flavors. It is balanced, with juicy acidity driving it to a moderate finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 11% **Price:** \$23

**87 Berger 2022 Gelber Muskateller (Niederösterreich).** An easy sipper that will find a lot of fans, thanks to its aromatic and exotic profile. Its vibrancy adds to the overall appeal. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

## WHITE BLENDS

**92 Soellner 2019 Irden White Blend (Wagram).** An atypical version, this shows the signs of skin-contact, featuring a round profile and notes of juicy peach and blood orange, accented by wax, hazelnut and vanilla spice. Complex and long, with a finish that makes you reach for another sip. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% **Price:** \$37

**91 Judith Beck 2022 Mish Mash White Blend (Austria).** Here is an intriguing, unfiltered

version, so beware if this is not your thing, but this is beautifully harmonious, with a great mix of mirabelle plum, quince and clementine. Soft tannins add to the structure, as this ends with a tactile feel. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Michi Lorenz 2021 Wicked Garden White Blend (Steiermark).** There is a savory, smoky note that glides along the floral and spice aromas in this inviting white, while the gooseberry and orange blossom flavors mingle on the palate. Beautifully balanced and integrated, with the structure for aging. This is super juicy and long on the finish. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Heidi Schröck 2022 Amphore Amore White Blend (Weinland Österreich).** This is dry and mineral driven, with spice and dried-thyme flavors leading to finely meshed apple, pastry and lemon-curd notes. Offers light tannins on a lithe, tangy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Fuhrgassl-Huber 2021 Neustift Am Walde White Blend (Wiener Gemischter Satz).** Hints of brioche open up this white, but citrus and fresh orchard fruit take over as the vibrant acidity brings it all out. There is a lively, balanced frame for flavors of Gala apple, honeysuckle, blood orange and slivered almond. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**89 Fuhrgassl-Huber 2020 Ried Mitterberg Neustift Am Walde White Blend (Wiener Gemischter Satz).** An elegant white, sleek and medium bodied, with subtle flavors of Asian pear, quince blossom, wet stone and singed lemon peel. It turns savory as the minerals chime in on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 13% **Price:** \$21

**89 Michael Gindl NV Michi's Farm White Blend (Austria).** An atypical version, with a leesy note before the gorgeous mix of orchard blossom, yellow apple and jasmine flavors. Light, yet very expressive, driven by vibrant acidity and a mineral backbone. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
abv: 11% **Price:** \$24

**88 Fuhrgassl-Huber 2021 Klassik White Blend (Wiener Gemischter Satz).** Offers a mix of apple, beeswax, and citrus flavors that are married to a light-bodied profile. This white is sleek and mineral on the moderate finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$27

**88 Heidi Schröck 2022 More is More White Blend (Burgenland).** Fresh, with bright honeysuckle and yellow apple aromas and flavors backed by a tangy quinine thread. Shows a light lanolin note on the moderate finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% **Price:** \$NA/1 L

## SPARKLING WINES

**89 Weingut Kögl NV Tanzmusik Pet Nat Brut Nature Sparkling Blend (Austria).** Unique and ever so slightly funky, with red pepper and smoke aromas that extend on the savory palate, where smoke and dried-cherry notes emerge. Mouth-watering finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**88 Soellner 2021 Marie Pétilante White Blend (Wagram).** This easy-drinking sparkler shows delicate flavors of cardamom, blood orange and graham cracker. The mousse is fine and the acidity is very vibrant. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 11% **Price:** \$19

## ROSÉ

**90 Michi Lorenz 2019 Redvoluzza Rosé (Steiermark).** Not your classic rosé, this shows character with interesting flavors of cherry-flavored hard candy, rooibos and hibiscus flavors, supported by zesty acidity. Stylish and seductive, great for sipping on the porch or with lighter meats—you decide. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
abv: 11.5% **Price:** \$38

## OTHER RED WINES

**90 Ernst Triebaum 2017 Blauburgunder (Burgenland).** Supple and round, this red features mature flavors of dried cherry, leather, cedar, light earth, mineral and spice flavors. Firm, with intensity and a long finish that echoes the fruit and iron notes. It is very easy to drink now, so no need to cellar it any further. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**89 Winzerin Birgit Wiederstein 2022 Diva Pinot Noir (Wein).** This offers well-knit tannins and a light- to medium-bodied profile, with red cherry, hibiscus tea and rose petal notes. Hints of tarragon and sage emerge, adding to the complexity on the finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**89 Winzerin Birgit Wiederstein 2022 Zirkus Zweigelt (Wein).** Very silky, with a core of plum and blackberry that is wrapped in a seductive coat of sandalwood and green olive. This is supple with light tannins and lively acidity that lurks beneath. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
abv: 12% **Price:** \$20

**88 Soellner 2019 Von Gösing Oibelos Blauer Zweigelt (Wagram).** This features dusty tannins and good flavor intensity, with mulberry, blackberry and black-tea notes. Lively, this red can be enjoyed on its own, but would be better with food. Weygandt-Metzler. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
abv: 12.5% **Price:** \$11

## BLAUFRÄNKISCH

**91 Ernst Triebaumer 2012 Ried Oberer Wald Trocken Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** A pleasant leather note accents the dark-berry fruit and mineral details in this dark, maturing red. Complex and balanced, with finely integrated tannins and orange-peel acidity giving this a vibrant profile. Finishes with a savory herbal note and a tad of forest floor. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**90 Heidi Schröck 2022 Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** This medium-bodied red is spicy and packed with red cherry, raspberry, mineral, and light loamy earth aromas and flavors. It is focused, with nicely integrated tannins adding to the fine complexity. This lingers on the juicy finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Winzerin Birgit Wiederstein 2020 Wie Damals Blaufränkisch (Niederösterreich).** This shows slight maturity with its sanguine character, dried strawberry and cherry fruit that highlight this sleek, elegant red. Floral and spice notes add interest as this winds down on the firm, mouth-watering finish. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$37

**89 Ernst Triebaumer 2020 Ried Gemärk Trocken Blaufränkisch (Burgenland).** Subtle aromas and flavors of black cherry, blackberry and freshly tilled earth are the highlights of this red. Vibrant and juicy, with fine balance and length. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## RED BLENDS

**90 Ernst Triebaumer 2018 Maulwurf Red Blend (Burgenland).** Oozes with ripe berry, plum sauce, cola and cherry flavors that are flanked by plenty of savory spice and mineral. This is still very firm and even chewy on the finish, so give it some time or decant. Best after 2025. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$39

**90 Michael Gindl NV Michi's Farm Red Blend (Austria).** This graceful and juicy red exhibits fresh acidity that cuts through the flavors of plum, blackberry and wild herbs. Features soft, well-integrated tannins that contribute to the silky texture. The spicy, mouth-watering finish expands over the palate. ZRS Wines LLC. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$24

**89 Ernst Triebaumer 2019 Tridendron Red Blend (Burgenland).** This features a ripe profile and lively acidity. Flavors of cherry and currant harmonize with hints of loam and hibiscus tea. There is a slight chew, giving this a firm feel, but then

this turns friendly and inviting. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Winzerin Birgit Wiederstein 2021 Ein Traum Red Blend (Niederösterreich).** Perfumed, this is ripe and juicy with a range of floral and fruit elements, accented by blackberry and sanguine notes. Smooth and complex, with lovely minerality adding to the overall impression. Weygandt-Metzler. —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$26

**88 Schmelzer NV Big Nature Red Red Blend (Austria).** Dark and super ripe, with mulled blackberry, kirsch and red frosting notes. It turns very juicy towards the finish, where it also presents its light tannins. ZRS Wines LLC. **Best Buy.** —A.Z.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18/1 L

## CALIFORNIA CHARDONNAY

**97 Donum 2021 The Heron Year of The Ox Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros).** For full review see page 3.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$125

**96 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Dutton Ranch Walker Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 3. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**95 Cotiere 2020 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Stunning aromas of chalk, delicate sour cream, minty meringue and crisp pear flesh entice the nose deeply into this bottling from the historic property. The palate's chalky texture falls right in line, as flavors of white melon and bright Meyer lemon flesh make for a compelling experience from start to finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$54

**95 Holman Ranch 2022 Chardonnay (Carmel Valley).** From a coastally influenced edge of the Carmel Valley, this bottling begins with lovely aromas of lychee, white peach and almond cream on the cleanly presented nose. The palate is bright in energy, extremely chalky in texture and loaded with apple and Meyer lemon-curd flavors that complement each other. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**95 Jax 2022 Dutton Ranch Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This sleek, elegant wine from Kirk Venge is a dream from the first sniff of poached pears to the butter, vanilla and cream flavors and the lingering, nicely viscous finish. It has good depth in baked apples and pear tart, but stays light on its feet due to underlying acidity and a medium body. Best through 2028. **Editors' Choice.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**95 Samuel Louis Smith 2022 Spear Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lemon curd and lime flesh cut into the light toastiness on the nose of this bottling from an organic vineyard in the heart of the appellation. The palate is very chalky in texture and extremely brisk in flavor, as a firmly grippy structure frames Meyer lemon, salted nectarine and brisk lime zest flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$45

**94 Barden 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tightly wound aromas of Asian pear and crushed chalk open toward more generous scents of key lime pie on the nose of this appellation blend. As the aromas indicate, the structure is tense and grippy, showing lime pith and lychee flavors, with a kiss of honeydew on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$52

**94 Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Lightly earthy aromas meet with elegant hints of honeysuckle, jasmine and peach on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense with crushed sandstone and seashell textures, as vibrant yuzu and light apple flavors align into a balanced expression. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**94 Far Niente 2022 Post & Beam Chardonnay (Carneros).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**94 Lindquist Family 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Brisk apple peel and light peach aromas are sliced by a stony streak of wet rocks on the compelling nose of this bottling from the historic vineyard where this winery is based. The texture of the palate is extremely vibrant and stony, giving a mineral edge to the brisk yellow apple, Meyer lemon and honeydew flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**94 Lynmar Estate 2021 Monastery Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Subtly oaky in aroma, this tightly structured wine aged in 50% new French barrels slowly brings out lemon and crisp apple flavors under a layer of toast, ginger and white pepper. Worth decanting to enjoy soon, or save for later development. Best from 2026. **Cellar Selection.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$63

**94 Lynmar Estate 2021 Old Vines Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Bold and full bodied, this wine made from 45-year-old vines opens with luscious, ripe pineapple, pear and butter aromas that lead to a strong, almost spicy palate laced with toasted-oak vibrancy that should mellow with time. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$78

**94 Pelio 2020 Chardonnay (Monterey).** This is an extremely dynamic style of Chardonnay from a new vineyard that's already showing much promise. Aromas of polished sea shell and pulverized chalk are lifted by lightly minty shiso leaf and



citrus zest on the nose. The palate offers Asian pear, lychee and white melon, with a lime-pith edge. —M.K.

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

**94 Rusack 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** This is a very compelling bottling, especially as the winery's county cuvée. Clean and crisp aromas of oyster shell, citrus and Asian pear are racy and immediately appealing on the nose. The palate rides that sharp, sea shell-enhanced edge through lemon syrup and lime-balm flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$30

**94 Rusack 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Clean and crisp, yet full on the nose, this bottling entices with aromas of lemon blossom and balm, baked apple, honeysuckle and white rocks. There is a phenomenal tension to the palate, where a chalky grip frames white rose, gardenia and jasmine flavors, with toasted rice adding warmth and yuzu peel giving an acidic sensation. —M.K.

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

**94 Sandhi 2021 Patterson Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's a lot of earth on the nose of this bottling, as well as lemon peel and honeysuckle aromas that add pretty notes. The palate is zippy and bright with acidity, offering sharp flavors of caviar lime as well as warmer honeydew and apple flesh touches. —M.K.

**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$75

**94 Sandhi 2021 Sanford & Benedict Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lovely aromas of white flower and stone fruit are set against a crushed stone minerality on the compelling nose of this bottling. Bright lemon and riper apple flavors meet with a similarly stony element on the tightly textured palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$55

**94 Talbott 2021 Fidelity Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 9. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$90

**94 Talley 2021 Rincon Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).** For full review see page 9.

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

**93 Artesa 2021 Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** A surprisingly light body envelops luscious, ripe golden apple and Bosc pear flavors in this broad, generous and buttery wine. It brings a suave spiciness to the palate, with toasty, nutty accents that linger on the finish. Impress your Chardonnay-loving friends before a meal or pair with rich sauces on seafood and poultry. *Best Buy.* —J.G.

**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$19

**93 Benovia 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 10.

**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48

**93 Benovia 2021 Three Sisters Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview).** Ample golden apple, puff pastry, vanilla and cinnamon flavors flood the palate of this luxurious, creamy-textured wine. It is big in body, rather soft in mouthfeel and will please a crowd with its friendly oak spices and rounded fruit notes. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$65

**93 Center of Effort 2021 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Rounded aromas of baked apple, almond milk, daffodil and toasty brioche draw the nose deeply into the bottling. The acid-powered palate is bold with lemon curd and salted cashew flavors, proving to be an attention-grabbing style of Chardonnay. —M.K.

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

**93 Chenoweth 2020 Bootlegger's Hill Chardonnay (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** Redolent of butterscotch and baked apples, this well-layered, seductive wine rests lightly on the palate, expressing creamy, baking spice nuances over good, ripe Bosc pears and golden apples. Light notes of toast and vanilla add extra interest and linger on the finish. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**93 CRU 2021 Smith & Lindley Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 11.

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

**93 Donnachadh 2022 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Key lime, peach blossom and wet-stone aromas make for a crisp and clean nose on this bottling. The chiseled stone minerality sails through the palate, where generous white peach and pineapple flavors stay tight and bright. —M.K.

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

**93 Donum 2021 Ferguson Year Of The Ox Chardonnay (Carneros).** Layers of fruit, toast, cream and baking spices give this lush and ripe-tasting wine a taste of luxury. Toast, butter and vanilla aromas lead to poached pears on the palate, riding a big but balanced texture with decent acidity behind it. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$85

**93 Flambeaux 2020 Sangiacomo Vineyards Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** A deeper than usual golden color and effusive buttery aromas are the first impressions of this medium- to full-bodied wine. It offers a mature expression that gets more interesting with each sip. Melted butter, toasted almonds, apricots and a savory note add up to unusual complexity and depth. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**93 Hartford Court 2021 Four Hearts Vineyards Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Mouth filling, generous but well balanced, this full-bodied wine wafts brown butter, toasted almond and baked apple aromas, followed by a rich palate of ripe fruits

and subtle oak spices backed by gentle acidity. It is spot on for a Russian River Chard. —J.G.

**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**93 Lumen 2022 Goodchild Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Clean aromas of nectarine, apricot and honeysuckle are balanced by a sharp citrus peel kick on the nose of this bottling. A zippy acidity fires up the palate, where fresh cantaloupe and honeydew flavors dance with the citrus elements. —M.K.

**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$48

**93 Lynmar Estate 2021 Adam's Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Creamy in texture and toasty in aroma, this luxurious wine liberally pours on the butter, vanilla and toasted-almond flavors. A soft, viscous mouthfeel adds to an almost-sweet impression on the palate that lingers on the finish. —J.G.

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

**93 MacRostie 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**93 Mahoney 2021 Gavin Vineyard Estate Grown Chardonnay (Carneros).** Subtle notes of oak spices of ginger, toast and vanilla waft from the glass before ripe, golden-apple flavors dominate the palate in this medium-bodied, silky-textured and moderately oaky wine from one of the Carneros district's pioneers. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$28

**93 Precision Wine 2022 District Series Edition No. 3 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 14.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**93 Private Property 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Green pear and lime aromas meet with chalk and crushed stone on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripping with acidity and layered in texture, carrying bold flavors of apple flesh, melon rind and citrus zest. —M.K.

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

**93 Ramey 2021 Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview).** This bracing, tangy, spicy wine boasts aromas of butter and toast, flavors of poached pears, vanilla and wood char, while a tingly, slightly gripping texture adds a crisp finish. Made from cool, coastal vineyards, it needs time to mellow in mouthfeel and gain more subtlety. Best from 2026. —J.G.

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

**93 Sangiacomo 2021 Home Ranch Chardonnay (Carneros).** Seductive and subtle, this wine draws you in with Anjou pears, marzipan and vanilla aromas followed by a full body embracing baked apples and poached pears, yet keeping a nice tang of acidity for balance. Barrel fermentation and

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aging on the lees really boosted the wine's complexity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$68

**93 Talley 2021 Oliver's Vineyard Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** The nose on this bottling from the Talley's Edna Valley property is subtle, yet endlessly expressive, offering almond, raw macadamia nut and Meyer lemon-rind aromas. Lightly salted butter flavors meet with fresh apple, under-ripe pineapples and sea salt on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$60

**93 The Messenger 2021 Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** A nervy, lively streak in this full-bodied wine deftly balances the rich, toasty, honeyed flavors for an appetizing tension that brings you back for more and more sips. Baked apples, lemon cream and honey-dripped figs come to mind while savoring this unique bottle. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$39

**93 Trentadue 2022 La Storia Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$32

**92 Alma de Cattleya 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** Vivid toasty, nutty, browned-butter aromas lead to rich marzipan and honey flavors while a full body and creamy texture complete the picture. Soft acidity, indulgent fruits and complex spices keep us coming back for more sips. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**92 Alma Rosa 2021 El Jabali Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Chiseled stone, blanched almond, fire-flashed lemon peel and light buttercream aromas make for a very complete nose on this bottling. The palate is very grippy in texture and layered in lemon blossom, key lime pie and graham cracker flavors, which will even better coalesce with patience. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**92 Benovia 2021 Martaella Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Big, soft and rich, this full-bodied wine coats the mouth with butter, vanilla, cream and toast flavors on a pillowy texture. Light acidity and the wine's lush ripeness give a sweet impression on the lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**92 BonAnno 2021 Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** Intense fruit concentration and a rich mouthfeel in this impressive wine include focused Bosc pear, Granny Smith apple and lemon zest flavors that tighten toward the finish, but will relax with time. Best from 2025–2030. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$20

**92 Carneros Highway 2022 Nueva Chardonnay (Carneros).** For full review see page 24. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**92 Center of Effort 2021 Giallo Solare Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Though this four-barrel

bottling was fermented in concrete, the wine still shows a rich side of Chardonnay, starting with aromas of warm popcorn, pie crust, seared nectarine and Meyer lemon. The palate sizzles with acidity before broadening into baked peach, apple and more popcorn flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**92 Cotiere 2020 La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Clean aromas of browned butter, white peach and baked lemon stay light and fresh, thanks to chalk and lime pith accents on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly wound, showing light coconut and sharp lime flavors on a high-acid canvas. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$51

**92 Donum 2021 Year Of The Ox Chardonnay (Carneros).** A good balance of body and acidity keeps the ample poached pear, almond and cream flavors from being too fat in this admittedly full-bodied and luxuriously ripe wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$75

**92 Field Recordings 2022 Shirts Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Extremely subtle on the nose, this bottling offers lemon curd, frozen pineapple and tight melon aromas. The palate is brisk and fresh, showing lively citrus and apple flavors that ride an engaging texture deep into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$25

**92 Gary Farrell 2021 Russian River Selection Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Hartford Court 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Assertively oaky in aromas and flavors, this intense and spicy-tasting wine opens with ginger, toast and white pepper in the nose, followed by a vivid, toasty and slightly gripping palate that echoes a touch of pepper spice for a warm mouthfeel. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**92 La Follette 2021 Sun Chase Vineyard Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Lemon zest and green-apple aromas waft to the nose before buttery, toasty, baked apple and vanilla flavors take over on the sip. A tangy snap in the wine's mouthfeel gives it a slightly chewy texture and adds to the overall bold, spicy expression. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**92 Meyye 2020 Kuluppis Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** This ultra-smooth and buttery wine boasts aromas of vanilla, butterscotch and baked apples followed by a luxurious palate full of poached pears and cream. It's a wow wine that brings plenty of richness. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**92 Ram's Gate 2021 Bucher Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A distinct mineral character is accompanied by nervy acidity and bright, tangy citrus flavors in this light-bodied but

firm-textured wine. It opens with hints of oak toast, chalk and steel in the aroma and follows with lemon zest and kiwi-fruit flavors shaded slightly by light lactic nuances. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$74

**92 Ridge 2020 Monte Bello Chardonnay (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Warm aromas of pineapple, hazelnut, marshmallow and flint introduce the nose to this bottling. The palate is also broadly set, offering cashew, toasted hazelnut, pineapple and light honey flavors, with an underlying stone element. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$95

**92 Riverbench 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Subtle aromas of almond flake, meringue, nectarine and stone make for a cohesive nose on this appellation cuvée. There's a compelling streak of stony minerality to the sip, where brisk Meyer lemon and peach flavors lead into a nutty finish. A well-rounded Chardonnay. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$30

**92 Rodney Strong 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Sandhi 2021 Romance Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's an earthy angle to the nose of this bottling, with maritime and struck-flint aromas playing alongside zesty lime peel and pomelo skin scents. The palate is very flinty as well, with citrus and dried-apple elements leading into a seashore-tinged finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$95

**92 Schug 2022 Chardonnay (Carneros).** A tantalizing, toasty top note draws you into this mouth-coating, richly flavorful and full-bodied wine. Spicy oak notes, light butter accents and poached pear flavors bring a lot of satisfaction on the sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92 Talley 2021 Rosemary's Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Grande Valley).** There's a very strong chance that this wine, which remains in its infancy, could be a lights-out superstar with a few years of patience. Currently, aromas of sharp lemon peel cut through fatter tones of white peach and popcorn. The palate is biting with acidity and tart citrus flavors that need time to mellow. Drink 2025–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$75

**92 Valravn 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** A nice interplay between subtle oak spices and generous, ripe fruit flavors gives this full-bodied wine a rich but not overpowering expression. Nuances of toast, butter, poached pears and peach syrup lend an extra confectionary flair to the palate and lingering finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 7 Cellars 2022 Elway's Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros).** A rather deep golden color and rich, developed honey and peach aromas lead to butter, orange zest and caramel flavors in this complex and smooth-textured wine. Rather light on its feet, the wine is a good choice to pair with buttery or creamy seafood dishes. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Belle Glos 2022 Glasir Holt Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**91 Bravium 2022 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Smooth and rounded in texture, this wine opens with light butter, golden apple and vanilla notes before rich, poached-pear flavors and a soft texture coat the palate. A medium body and barrel aging have given the wine a plush profile. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$23

**91 Carneros Ranch 2022 Chardonnay (Carneros).** Fresh as a sliced Granny Smith apple, this wine emphasizes bright citrus and crisp apple aromas followed by plenty of fruitiness, a lively balance and good acidity to keep it appetizing sip after sip. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**91 CRU 2021 Sarmiento Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

**91 Field Recordings 2022 So Far Out You're Already Home Skin Contact Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** A golden hue in the glass, this skin-contact bottling offers dried apricot, peach blossom and white-flower aromas on the nose. The texture is quite compelling, carrying flavors of chamomile and preserved lemon that stay bright and intriguing into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Hartford Court 2021 Sevens Bench Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros).** This extroverted, soft-textured wine glows with sunny apple and mango aromas, followed by tempting buttery, oak-spice elements in the generous fruit flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$70

**91 Lake Sonoma 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** Creamy, subtle notes of vanilla, butterscotch and almonds in the aroma lead to a silky texture that carries green and golden apple, and light butter flavors in this medium-bodied, layered and enticing wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$34

**91 Nielson 2021 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 25. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$16

**91 Ram's Gate 2021 El Diablo Vineyard Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This late bloomer of a wine offers baked apple aromas and good, direct

red apple and pear-cider aromas on a smooth texture and relatively light body. With more sips, accents of toast and butter emerge and engage the senses more fully. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$74

**91 Riverbench 2021 Chapel View Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Delicate aromas of lychee, honeysuckle and gardenia are quite floral on the subtle nose of this bottling. The palate's firm texture balances the buoyant and tropical-leaning flavors of plumeria and coconut. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Sandhi 2021 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's a strong streak of tarry minerality to the nose of this bottling, which shows brisk lemon peel and even petrol on the tightly wound nose. The palate is stony as well, with a potent acidity slicing through lemon-peel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$32

**91 Sandhi 2021 Bentrack Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is an extremely earthy lens into Chardonnay, starting with aromas of flint, dried soil and macerated lemons on the nose. The palate is slightly tart and wooly, with more of the citrus and earth elements working in tandem. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$85

**91 Sandhi 2021 Rinconada Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Very earthy on the nose, this bottling smells of turned soil and crushed rocks, with a touch of grapefruit peel adding sharpness. The palate sizzles with a tangy acidity, offering more grapefruit alongside that crushed-rock minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$65

**91 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Santa Clara Valley).** White-pear flesh, fresh melon, lemon verbena and a touch of almond show on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up fleshy pineapple flavors that are cut by Eureka lemon, with touches of hazelnut lingering on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$38

**91 Starfield 2021 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap).** This attractive, well-rounded and well-balanced wine checks all the boxes for California Chardonnay. It is rich in ripe pears and apples and accented with light butter and toast nuances on a full body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

**91 Storm Wines 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Barbara County).** Prominent aromas of baked peach, hot popcorn and baked Meyer lemon make for a broad expression on the nose of this county cuvée. The palate lands with a zippy acidity that sails through honeysuckle, plumeria and pineapple flavors, staying racy into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**90 Arthur Cellars 2021 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A tempting butterscotch

aroma echoes strongly in the flavors of this rich-feeling but medium-bodied wine. Candied apple and pear notes swirl in the glass, giving a confectionary expression that comes off as sweet on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$42

**90 Carson Ridge 2022 Chardonnay (Paso Robles).** Apple blossom and apple-candy aromas lure the nose into this bottling. The palate is pleasantly bright, acidic and salty, with fresh apple flavors most prevalent. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$13

**90 Copain Wines 2021 DuPratt Vineyard Chardonnay (Anderson Valley).** This is a beautifully constructed Chardonnay that interweaves delicate oak notes of clove, cinnamon and nutmeg among the bright, fresh aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, cream, green and yellow apple, and poached pear. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$65

**90 Cotiere 2020 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's an earthy lean to the nose of this bottling, with crushed rock and damp soil adding to the citrus and white-flower aromas. The palate is tightly wound, offering coconut and lychee against a chalky backbone. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Donum 2021 Year Of The Ox Reserve Chardonnay (Carneros).** So ripe and honeyed that it tastes sweet, this unctuous wine drips with pear nectar, butter and vanilla notes on a very soft, pillowy texture with apparently low acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$125

**90 Dovecote 2021 Thompson Vineyard Chardonnay (Alisos Canyon).** A light hue in the glass, this bottling offers slightly sour aromas of citrus alongside warmer hints of honeydew on the nose. The palate is tart with grapefruit flavors, as a crushed oyster shell element adds nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 Gary Farrell 2020 La Rinconada Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Quite steely, yet a touch tart on the nose, this bottling is crisp and earthy at first. The palate leans into warmer apple flavors, while the earthy hints of soil and wild herb persist into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$55

**90 Lumen 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** This blend of the Rancho Real and Goodchild vineyards is very aromatic on the nose, offering jasmine, plumeria and coconut aromas. That floral power extends through the sip, where honeysuckle and tuberose flavors meet with candied lychee and hints of passionfruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 McIntyre Family Wines 2017 Block K1 Estate Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A slightly golden hue in the glass, this bottling shows aromas of toasted hazelnut, marzipan and popcorn



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on the nose, indicating advanced age. The palate is viscous with baked lemon and toasty nut flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$52

**90 Pelio 2020 Reserve Chardonnay (Monterey).** This reserve bottling from a brand-new vineyard begins with apple juice, dried peach and nut cream aromas. The palate shows tartness alongside a clay-like minerality and that texture holds firm through the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

**90 River Road 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**90 Waypoint 2021 Fort Ross Vineyard Chardonnay (Fort Ross-Seaview).** This full-bodied wine feels warm and quietly powerful on the palate, offering lots of butter, poached pear and toasted oak flavors. It is robust enough to pour with fried chicken, grilled fish and beef steak. —J.G.

abv: 14% Price: \$59

**90 Wente 2022 Morning Fog Chardonnay (Central Coast).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**90 Winemakers Selection 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Monterey County).** Though the busy label on this bottle appears to come from a bureaucratic government agency, the wine inside is quite good. Aromas of citrus pith, light pear and wet stone lead from the nose into a vibrant palate of salted apple and ample texture. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$10

**89 Blair 2019 Delfina's Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** Baked pear, seared lemon and hazelnut aromas make for a very rich entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite viscous, showing browned butter and preserved lemon flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.9% Price: \$45

**89 CRU 2020 Solomon Hills Vineyard Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Almond cream, macadamia nut, yellow peach and daffodil aromas make for a rich nose on this bottling. The palate is creamy with lemon syrup, toasty oak and hazelnut flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$45

**89 Flying H 2021 Kristy's Vineyard Chardonnay (Monterey County).** Rounded honeysuckle, apple flesh and light earth aromas show on the nose of this bottling, a new brand founded by the Hobson family of multigenerational farmers. There's tight, steely minerality to the palate, where apple flesh, grapefruit and lime flavors make for a sharp sip. —M.K.

abv: 13.1% Price: \$35

**89 Gnarly Head 2022 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*

abv: 13.5% Price: \$12

**89 Maddalena 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Crisp lime peel, a hint of soft stone fruit and a metallic minerality draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is sharp with lime peel and tart apple flavors that warm up slightly on the butter-kissed finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.1% Price: \$20

**89 Montoya 2021 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Warm aromas of butter, marzipan and baked apple show on the nose of this bottling. The palate sizzles with acidity at first and then leads into butter, popcorn and toasted-nut flavors, with a Meyer lemon edge. —M.K.

abv: 14.4% Price: \$20

**89 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2022 Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** Beach stones and lemon-grapefruit peel aromas show on the earthy nose of this bottling. There's a strong kick of acidity at first on the palate and then it flows into tart apple-skin flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14% Price: \$20

**89 Ram's Gate 2021 Hyde Vineyard Chardonnay (Carneros).** Light aromas of poached pears and baked apples lead to a rather lean texture and mellow golden-apple flavors lightly accented by vanilla and butter notes. It's an appetizing and relatively austere interpretation of a great vineyard for Chardonnay. —J.G.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$74

**89 Riviera 2022 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** This affordably priced Chardonnay is as reliable as white wine gets. Aromas of macadamia nut, baked lemon and peach lead from the nose into a clean, while ripe, palate of white peach, sea salt and honeysuckle, veering toward jasmine on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.4% Price: \$24

**89 Sirin 2021 TNT Vineyard Reserve Chardonnay (Sonoma Mountain).** For full review see page 24.

abv: 14% Price: \$48

**89 Susie Bynum 2021 Chardonnay (Sonoma Coast).** Layered, complex aromas of lanolin and golden apples are followed by a medium body and notes of apple skin, minerals and straw. The unorthodox wine is rather restrained in fruit, yet offers good crisp acidity. —J.G.

abv: 13.7% Price: \$25

**89 Tassajara 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey).** Stony aromas of wet rocks meet with lemon and melon on the nose of this bottling. The palate is pleasant and mellow, with a chalky tension that frames almond and more melon flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**88 Ancient Peaks 2022 Chardonnay (Santa Margarita Ranch).** Lime juice, chalk, plumeria and peach make for a zippy, yet ripe nose on this bottling. The palate's citrusy core cuts through the jasmine and tropical flavors that grow toward the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.2% Price: \$20

**88 Bishop's Peak 2022 Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County).** Ripe melon and lychee aromas meet with a sandstone-like minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tightly woven in texture and zippy in acidity, offering pear-flesh flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$25

**88 Blair 2019 The Matriarch Delfina's Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** This Chardonnay will please those seeking an aged version of the grape. A darker gold in the glass, the wine begins with baked lemon, orange cake and crushed hazelnut aromas. The palate is fleshy and viscous, with roasted almond and baked-orange flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.94% Price: \$50

**88 Chamisal 2022 Chardonnay (San Luis Obispo County).** Clean and prominent aromas of pear flesh are doused in lime spray and grapefruit pith on the nose of this county cuvée. The palate is zippy in acid and steely in minerality, with more pear flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**88 Cobble Creek 2022 Chardonnay (Paso Robles).** Subtle aromas of wet rocks and pear flesh are tight on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines that crisp pear flavor with a splash of lime and more crushed rocks. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13% Price: \$17

**88 Cormorant Cellars 2021 Zabala Vineyard Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** Slightly hazy in the glass, this bottling shows tart aromas of lemon with juicier hints of melon soda pop. There's a sizzle of acidity across the palate, which is slightly sour with citrus flavors. —M.K.

abv: 13.4% Price: \$27

**88 CRU 2022 Unoaked Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** Loads of honeydew, ripe pear, warm brioche and a hint of citrus pith show on the strong nose of this bottling. The riper flavors of melon and peach are edged by chalk and tart apple flesh on the palate. —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$20

**88 Ferrari-Carano 2022 Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** With melts-in-your-mouth softness, this broad, pillowy wine exudes butter, vanilla and cream aromas that echo in the flavors. Low acidity and lots of viscosity give a sweet impression. —J.G.

abv: 14.5% Price: \$27

**88 Graymore 2022 Chardonnay (Edna Valley).** Lime blossom, apple flesh and sea shell aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate

starts with a tight weave that quickly opens into riper apple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$30

**88 Josh Cellars 2021 North Coast Reserve Chardonnay (North Coast).** This North Coast Chard offers notes of fresh green apple and pear, lime pith, white-peach skin and a hint of toasted bread. On the palate, find modest acidity alongside a smooth, glycerin mouthfeel and generous alcohol. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**88 Just Enough 2022 Chardonnay (Central Coast).** Browned butter, sandalwood, light incense and warm cookies aromas show on the nose of this canned wine. There is a splash of acidity on the palate, which is ripe, rich and creamy with buttered peach and sea salt flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$7/250 ml

**88 Lake Sonoma 2020 Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** This gentle wine offers ample apple, butter and vanilla flavors on a fairly soft texture. It's attractive and agreeable, something good to pour for a crowd. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$34

**88 Nella Terra 2022 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Chardonnay (Livermore Valley).** Despite generous (14.4%) alcohol, this is a lighter, more aromatic expression of Chardonnay with subtle notes of lemon water, lime leaf, lemongrass, water lily, wet stone, dewy grass and white grape. Best enjoyed on its own or with equally delicate fare. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$35

**88 Reynolds Family Winery 2022 Chardonnay (Los Carneros).** Redolent of melted butter, honey and hazelnuts, this wine feels so rich and seemingly sweet that you could pour it over ice cream. It's impressive as a dessert wine to enjoy with a not-too-sweet tart or crème brûlée. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$42

**88 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2022 Chardonnay (Petaluma Gap).** So full of butterscotch and honey flavors that it seems sweet, this super-rich, mouth-coating, oaky and viscous wine would work well after a meal with cheese or as a dessert on its own. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**87 7 Cellars 2021 The Farm Collection Chardonnay (Arroyo Seco).** Ripe aromas of peach flesh and honeysuckle are cut by lemon zest and verbena on the nose of this bottling. The palate is soft in texture and loaded with ripe peach flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$15

**87 Barrel Burner 2022 Double Oak Chardonnay (Paso Robles).** Voluptuous aromas of white peach and gardenia are cut by a bit of Meyer lemon peel on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows the "double oak" much more, with bold flavors of

peach custard, butter, vanilla and clove. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Barrelstone 2020 Chardonnay (California).** This fuller-bodied Chard incorporates over-ripe fruit tones of yellow and red apple, mango flesh, apricot and banana peel amongst intense oaky notes of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, toasted wood, hay and vanilla. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**87 Highlands 41 2022 Chardonnay (Monterey County).** Coconut, pineapple and light butter make for a ripe but fresh nose on this bottling. The coconut and pineapple fluff flavors make for a creamy, comforting expression on the rich palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 River Road 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A noticeable smoky, toasty aroma is followed by good, ripe apple and pineapple flavors in this medium-bodied wine. The palate picks up a slight bitter edge from the charred oak influence. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$20

**87 SKS 2021 Rio Vista Vineyard Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a rich, somewhat extracted spin on Chardonnay, starting with aromas of buttered popcorn and marzipan. The palate is creamy and nutty with brioche and melted butter flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**82 Bota Box NV Nighthawk Gold Buttery Chardonnay (California).** No surprise: This is a full-bodied, ripe and, yes, buttery Chardonnay. Rich in flavor and texture, this is for those who like what has become a noted California style. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA/3 L

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**95 Waypoint 2021 Ritchie Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** A snappy aroma of orange zest, lemon pith and gingery spices wafts from the glass before mouth-watering acidity carries refreshing citrus, mineral and oak subtleties across the palate. This deftly oaked wine made from a vineyard famous for its Chardonnay achieves great balance between nervy fruit flavors and oak spices, so you can appreciate both. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$59

**92 Orin Swift 2022 Blank Stare Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 18.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 Flying H 2021 Rancho Legado Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Monterey County).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**91 Merry Edwards 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Russian River Valley).** Fruit forward and generous in texture, this easy-sipping wine is relatively soft in terms of acidity, full in body and soaked with good apple and honeydew melon flavors that last through a lingering, slightly tangy finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Refugio Ranch 2022 Tiradora Sauvignon Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Crisp aromas of lime blossom, wet stone and just-ripe stone fruit draw the nose into this bottling. The palate is zesty in lemon juice flavors that slice through the warmer apple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$38

**91 Sixmilebridge 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Ade-laida District).** Intriguing aromas of citrus peel, lemon syrup and crushed rocks combine fruit and earth on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up an exotic floral element, showing grapefruit peel, chamomile and even peppercorn flavors, with a clay-like minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$50

**91 South Coast 2021 Musque Clone Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** This bottling from the Carter Estate Vineyards shows that Sauv Blanc can thrive in classic ways in Temecula. Tightly wound aromas of apple skin, lime peel and wool lead from the nose into a chalky palate of crisp lime, apple skin and wet stone. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$24

**90 Falkner 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 22. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$40

**90 Illumination 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Napa County-Sonoma County).** Bright, refreshing and with some good fruit depth, this wine made from 50% Sauvignon Musqué can be sipped alone and will also pair nicely with lunch and appetizers. A touch of ripeness/sweetness softens the edges and amplifies the citrus and grassy flavors. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**90 Peltzer Family 2021 Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** Crisp and easy aromas of apple flesh and white flower are mellow and pleasant on the nose of this bottling. It's tightly wound on the palate, with light citrus and apple flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$38

**89 Rescue Dog Wines 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Lodi).** This mouth-watering Sauvignon Blanc offers juicy notes of lemon, lime, wet stone, lanolin and just a hint of flint. Bonus: It comes with a cute dog on the label. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Rusack 2022 Estate Sauvignon Blanc (Ballard Canyon).** Very tart aromas of lime peel and cut grass introduce the nose to this bottling.

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There is a wet-stone kick to the palate, where the lime-peel flavors hold tight. —M.K.

abv: 12.9% Price: \$30

**89 Wente 2022 Louis Mel Sauvignon Blanc (Central Coast).** Polished aromas of grass and grapefruit peel meet with wet cement on the very familiar nose of this bottling, which is named for the Frenchman who brought these Chateau D'Yquem cuttings to California generations ago. The palate is subtle in similar flavors, with a texture that grows more compelling toward the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$18

**88 Berryessa Gap 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Yolo County).** This well-balanced, quaffable Sauv Blanc offers aromas and flavors of lemon, lime, white grapefruit, white peach and a touch of wet stone minerality. The palate is driven by a racy-high acidity, cut by just a touch of phenolic grip. —S.B.

abv: 12% Price: \$22

**88 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2022 Reserve Sauvignon Blanc (Temecula Valley).** Lime peel and peach aromas show a vinous tinge on the nose of this bottling. The palate grips with proper texture, showing sour apple and grass flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.9% Price: \$52

**87 Frey 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (North Coast).** This light-bodied, simple Sauv Blanc has a little spritz to the palate that gives an extra dose of energy alongside the chirpy-high acid. Enjoy notes of cut grass, water lily, lychee, rose water and white grape. —S.B.

abv: 12.8% Price: \$20

## PINOT GRIGIO

**93 Union Sacre 2022 Skin Contact Pinot Gris (Monterey).** Inviting aromas of watermelon gummies, raspberry granita and rose water sorbet make for a refreshing nose on this skin-contact bottling. There's ample tension to the palate, where jubilant strawberry, melon and orange sherbet flavors make a delicious combo. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12.1% Price: \$22

**90 Handley 2022 Pinot Gris (Anderson Valley).** It's always a pleasure to sip this lively white from Handley. The fermentation process includes mixed vessels of steel, puncheon and concrete; the result is a Pinot Gris that's a far cry from the simplicity the variety is oft-defined by. Enjoy notes of lemon, lime, dewy grass and lawn daisy, pink grapefruit and a minerally wet-stone earthiness all woven into a smooth, medium-bodied mouthfeel. —S.B.

abv: 12.6% Price: \$28

**89 Blair 2019 Pinot Gris (Arroyo Seco).** A darker shade of yellow in the glass, this bottling offers tart and baked-apple aromas on the nose along with toasted nut elements. The palate is quite

nutty, viscous and even oily, reminiscent of a Rousanne. —M.K.

abv: 14.42% Price: \$35

**88 Peltzer Family 2021 Pinot Grigio (Temecula Valley).** This would be a perfectly refreshing choice on a hot Temecula day. Light aromas of citrus and earth lead from the nose into a subtle palate of pear flesh and brie-cheese rind. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 12.3% Price: \$36

**87 Sunny with a Chance of Flowers 2022 Pinot Grigio (Monterey County).** Very light in the glass, this alcohol-reduced bottling offers watery pear, pleasant lychee and light stone aromas on the nose. There's a tingle of acidity on the sip before simple apple and honeysuckle flavors emerge. *Best Buy.* —M.K.

abv: 9% Price: \$17

## PINOT NOIR (BLANC)

**93 Emeritus 2022 Hallberg Estate Blanc Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Vibrant tangerine and apricot aromas lead to crisp apple and Bosc pear flavors layered in mild butter and vanilla nuances. This lively, fruity and well-balanced white wine made from Pinot Noir grapes has the concentration and structure to improve with some age. Best from 2025. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.

abv: 13.3% Price: \$42

**91 El Lugar 2022 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Blanc Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** This white wine from Pinot Noir grapes makes for a great conversation starter. Very austere on the nose, it offers pear and apple-blossom aromas. The tightly wound palate shows crisp apple, white blossom and lime peel flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13.4% Price: \$44

**91 Handley 2022 Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** White Pinot Noir—yes please. This expression offers vivacious notes from first pour to last swallow: white cherry and strawberry, pink-petaled roses, lemon, lime, crusty baguette and white pepper. The palate is driven by a juicy acidity, balanced alcohol, all leading toward a clean, crisp finish. —S.B.

abv: 12.5% Price: \$32

**91 Waits-Mast 2022 Filigreen Farm Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** The savory nose of this wine is immediately captivating: raw bread dough, poached apple, cumin, coriander, ginger. The palate doesn't disappoint and incorporates even more layers with the addition of pear, mango and citrus. Generous acidity is balanced by a slight phenolic grip, providing a thin bitter edge. Engaging, delicious and versatile enough to pair with a plethora of cuisines. —S.B.

abv: 13% Price: \$42

**90 Schug 2022 White Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Not as white as one would expect, a light

pink-amber color is the first thing to notice about this barrel-fermented, creamy-textured wine before Rainier cherries, strawberries and a hint of vanilla take over. It's relatively full bodied and the generous flavors linger nicely on the finish. —J.G.

abv: 13.5% Price: \$46

## CHENIN BLANC

**93 Birichino 2022 Jurassic Park Vineyard Old Vines Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Subtle aromas of honey, crisp apple and pleasant honeysuckle meet with wet slate and light wool on the nose of this old-vine bottling. The palate is wrapped in a steely frame, offering delicate apple blossom and pear-flesh flavors, bolstered by a thirst-quenching and vibrant acidity. —M.K.

abv: 12% Price: \$28

**93 Field Recordings 2022 Chenin Blanc (Central Coast).** This blend of three old-vine vineyards (Jurassic Park, planted 1978; and Shell Creek and Cat Canyon, both 1972) is quite dynamic. The nose offers rocky riverbed, wool and lime pith aromas while the palate is lively with citrus, apple flesh and more wool flavors, proving both fresh and slightly funky. —M.K.

abv: 11.1% Price: \$25

**92 Field Recordings 2022 Jurassic Park Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** The nose of this bottling is both clean with aromas of bright lemon peel and more dirty with hints of earth and wool. The palate's waxy texture showcases more rocks and wool flavors, with dried citrus peel and pastry elements arising midpalate. —M.K.

abv: 11.2% Price: \$39

**92 Hartford 2021 Old Vine Jurassic Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Tart, slightly wild aromas of melon and Meyer lemon meet with a wet-slate minerality on the nose of this bottling from a historic Chenin vineyard. The palate is zesty and bright with lemon, lime and lychee flavors. —M.K.

abv: 12.1% Price: \$38

**91 Common Thread 2022 Massa Estate Vineyard Chenin Blanc (Carmel Valley).** A touch cloudy in the glass, this bottling from a historic estate shows steel, wool, apple flesh and apple blossom on the dynamic nose. There's a tactile texture to the palate where Meyer lemon and apple-flesh flavors align. —M.K.

abv: 12.4% Price: \$40

**91 Fort Ross Winery 2021 Chenin Blanc (Fort Ross-Seaview).** A deep gold color and equally deep brown butter and baked-apple aromas lead to a broad palate of lightly nutty, savory, straw-like flavors on a medium body. The wine feels hefty, mouth filling and well suited to pairing with roasted birds and beasts. —J.G.

abv: 13% Price: \$44



## GRENACHE BLANC

**92 Dovecote 2022 Thompson Vineyard Grenache Blanc (Alisos Canyon).** Very light in the glass, this estate bottling pops on the nose with clean aromas of lime juice, white melon, coconut and lychee. The palate is very grippy in texture, offering more melon as well as bubblegum-like flavors that are balanced by a zesty acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$45

**91 Tablas Creek 2022 Grenache Blanc (Adelaida District).** Melon, plumeria and apricot gelee aromas show on the tightly wound nose of this bottling. A blast of acid and a firm texture frame the sip, where pear and apricot flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$40

**89 Figge 2022 Grenache Blanc (Los Olivos District).** Lime blossom and balm aromas are extremely subtle on the nose of this bottling. There's a brisk acidity and chalky texture to the palate, where sharp lime and subtle melon flavors arise. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

## VIIGNIER

**92 Kunde 2022 Signature Series Estate Viognier (Sonoma Valley).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Barton 2022 Uptown Funk Orange Wine Dusi Farms Viognier (Templeton Gap District).** This is an orange wine for those who don't like orange wine. It's yellow in the glass and shows aromas of lemon peel, turned earth and wool. The palate is incredibly grippy and loaded with earthy flavors as well as lemon flesh and orange peel. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 Kendrick Vineyards 2022 Proprietor Grown Viognier (Petaluma Gap).** This lively, refreshing wine emphasizes fresh green apples, red apples and a touch of lemon zest in the nose before it wakes up the mouth with brilliant acidity and those bright fruit notes. Great balance and a medium body bode well for pairing with fish, shellfish, greens and poultry. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**91 Whatever 2021 Viognier (Templeton Gap District).** Roasted apple and sliced-peach aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers plenty of honeydew and bright lemon zest, quite reminiscent of classical Condrieu. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$38

**90 Dovecote 2021 Quail Valley Vineyard Viognier (Los Olivos District).** Very light in the glass, this tightly wound bottling offers aromas of apple blossom and jasmine water. There's a rocky

edge to the palate, giving depth to the honeyed stone-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**90 Head High 2022 Viognier (Sonoma County).** Broad, generous notes of golden apples and Bartlett pears fill the aroma of this full-bodied wine, as a nice touch of acidity keeps them humming along nicely on the palate as well. The wine has good refreshment qualities and focused fruit. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 Jaffurs 2022 Bien Nacido Vineyard Viognier (Santa Maria Valley).** A very stone and austere take on an often boisterous grape, this bottling offers lime peel, chiseled rock, pear flesh and orange blossom aromas. The palate combines pear peels, lime skin and apple-juice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$32

**87 Falkner 2022 Viognier (Temecula Valley).** Very light in the glass, this bottling offers a crisp, delicate nose of citrus peel and white flower. The palate turns out to be quite sweet, with apple sugar flavors and a viscous mouthfeel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$50

**86 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2022 Estate Viognier (Temecula Valley).** Very light in the glass, this bottling offers apple and jasmine aromas as well as a hint of concrete. The palate is thin yet floral with a wet-stone kick. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$41

## ALBARIÑO

**92 Marimar 2022 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Albariño (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 18. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**91 CRU 2022 Albariño (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Absolution 2022 Martian Ranch Albariño (Alisos Canyon).** This is a warmer take on this grape, offering aromas of blanched almond, apple flesh and toast on the nose. The palate shows flavors of key lime crust and more almond atop a weighty texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$36

**88 Berryessa Gap 2022 Albariño (Yolo County).** This is an overall balanced, quaffable white with ripe aromas and flavors of mango flesh, banana peel, poached pear, green apple and apple blossom. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

## VERMENTINO

**92 Giornata 2022 Vermentino (Paso Robles).** Aromas of wet stone, crisp peach and lightly tangy lemon show on the nose of this bottling.

There's a wild citrus flavor to the palate, where a chalky texture carries crisp pear, jicama and lime juice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

**92 Portalupi 2022 Mahoney Vineyard Vermentino (Carneros).** An appley freshness in the aroma and a wisp of snap peas in the flavor give this crisp and clean wine a mouth-watering attractiveness. It's refreshing and tangy, uncomplicated and appealing. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**90 Giornata 2021 Vermentino (Paso Robles).** This orange-style wine is quite cloudy in the glass, offering dusty clay, ripe melon and banana flower aromas. Muddled melon and lime-juice flavors meet with pear flesh on the slightly sour but intriguing palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

## RIESLING

**96 Bob Cabral Wines 2019 Wildflower Riesling (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$60

**94 Bob Cabral Wines 2018 Wildflower Riesling (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 6.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$60

**92 Union Sacre 2022 Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** Zesty aromas of honeydew, cantaloupe, peach and pear draw the nose into this bottling, which also offers a chalky minerality. The palate's texture is compelling enough to balance the sweet apple and brisk pear flavors. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$18

**90 Union Sacre 2022 Kick on Ranch 30 Days on Skin Riesling (Santa Barbara County).** This is an epic journey of a tasting experience. Golden in color, the bottling begins with mango, banana and apple-juice aromas. The palate offers pineapple, more mango and tropical-flower flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$25

## GEWÜRZTRAMINER

**92 Union Sacre 2022 Loma del Rio Vineyard Skin-Contact Gewürztraminer (Monterey).** A light pink hue in the glass, this skin-contact bottling shows a tiny bit of effervescence in the glass, lifting the watermelon, rose petal and stone aromas. The palate is very zippy, keeping the watermelon and cherry flavors light and edgy. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$19

**91 Union Sacre 2022 40 Days on Skin Gewürztraminer (Monterey).** This bottling, which spent 40 days on the skins, is so aromatic and flavorful, that it almost seems adulterated. Aromas of gingergeranium tea on the nose lead into similar ginger

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and flower flavors on the palate, which is racy with acidity. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$27

**91 Handley 2022 Estate Vineyard Gewürztraminer (Anderson Valley).** This is Gewürz done right. As aromatic as you like it with a garden just wafting out of the glass with scents of lychee, rose petal, white grape, peach and nectarine. The palate highlights these flavors by maintaining a modest level of acidity and adding a slight phenolic grip for a balanced bitter edge—all leading to a floral-meets-spicy finish—the token of the variety. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$32

**91 Kobler 2022 Gewürztraminer (Russian River Valley).** This impeccably balanced wine offers vivid lychee fruit plus rose petals and honeysuckle in the explosion of flavor for which Gewürz is famous. Dry and medium bodied, it is elegant, yet retains the signature outgoing personality of the grape variety. **Hidden Gem.** —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$48

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**93 Field Recordings 2022 Nolan Ranch Xarel.lo (Alisos Canyon).** For full review see page 12. **Hidden Gem.**  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$39

**93 Stolpman 2021 L'Avion Roussanne (Ballard Canyon).** This bottling is always one for the cellar, or a great immediate alternative for lovers of rich, even aged Chardonnay. Aromas of hazelnut, pecan, masa and yellow cake make for a toasty nose. That warmth carries through the palate, where toasted nut and apple-pie flavors are leveled by salty citrus peel. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$52

**93 Union Sacre 2022 Sylvaner (Santa Maria Valley).** This bottling makes a strong case for planting more of this grape in appropriate regions. The nose begins with pear flesh and lime-curd aromas and then the palate offers lychee, white melon and more citrus flavors. It's the grippy texture that's most compelling. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$19

**92 Blade & Talon 2022 Calleri Vineyard Falanghina (San Benito).** Delicate aromas of verbena and paper mache make for a unique but appealing nose on this bottling of a grape that's very rare in California. Meyer lemon and stone-fruit flavors arise on the bright and pithy palate, as that damp paper and clay minerality lingers into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.6% **Price:** \$28

**92 Girasole 2022 Pinot Blanc (Mendocino).** For full review see page 24. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

**92 Jaffurs 2021 Stolpman Vineyard Roussanne (Ballard Canyon).** Lovely aromas of apricot,

chamomile, toasted almond and honey show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is waxy in texture and layered in honeyed lemon, baked citrus and intriguing ginger flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$42

**92 Verdad 2022 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Godello (Santa Maria Valley).** Louisa Sawyer Lindquist has been pushing the Spanish varietal movement for years and this Godello is a noteworthy achievement. Lovely aromas of pear brulee and toasted macadamia nut lead into a warm palate of almond-topped pear pie with light banana flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Cadre 2022 Band of Stones Grüner Veltliner (Edna Valley).** A unique combination of honeydew flesh, melon rind and wool draw the nose into this bottling. There's a leathery grip to the palate, where bright yellow melon, nectarine and lychee flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**91 Paradise Springs 2022 Nolan Vineyard Picpoul Blanc (Alisos Canyon).** Light in the glass, this bottling sizzles on the excitingly energetic nose with bright lime juice, tangerine and honeysuckle-flavored soda-pop aromas. The palate is zippy with a tantalizing acidity that showcases white melon, banana and coconut flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$39

**91 Union Sacre 2022 Pinot Blanc (Monterey).** Clean and easy-going aromas of apple flesh, honeydew and a hint of peppery spice show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is rounded and nearly sweet, with apple, pear, kiwi and lemon syrup flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$22

**90 Giornata 2022 Moscato Giallo (Paso Robles).** This is an aggressive style of orange wine, but it's intriguing and will surely satisfy those seeking an edgy experience. A hazy yellow in the glass, it begins with aromas of pear, funky melon and grapefruit cocktail. There's a tinny minerality to the sip, where kumquat flavors meet with underlying hints of verbena and basil. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$35

**89 Berryessa Gap 2022 Verdejo (Yolo County).** This is a friendly white wine with juicy flavors of lemon, lime, white strawberry and kiwi fruit balanced with nuanced notes of acacia, white orchid, cut grass, cream and dough. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**88 Peltzer Family 2021 Muscat Canelli (Temecula Valley).** Loads of orange blossom, lemon-lime soda and tuberose make for a very aromatic, tropical nose on this bottling. The palate is quite sweet, but clearly made, showing jasmine tea and coconut flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.2% **Price:** \$34

## WHITE BLENDS

**93 Field Recordings 2022 Skins White Blend (Central Coast).** For full review see page 12. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$25

**93 Popelouchum 2021 Blanc White Blend (San Benito).** The first vintage of this white blend from this new Randall Grahm vineyard near San Juan Bautista, this bottling offers warm aromas of golden apple, light almond, crisp peach and coconut flake on the nose. The palate is fleshy in texture with plenty of chalky grip, presenting light pineapple, apple peel and papaya flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Grey Wolf Cellars 2022 Soul Mate Rhône-style White Blend (Central Coast).** Lively aromas of plumeria and ripe melon are cut by a steely minerality on the nose of this blend of 65% Viognier and 35% Clairette Blanche. The texture is firm on the sip, where apple flavors are most prevalent. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$40

**92 Margerum 2022 M5 Estate Rhône-style White Blend (Los Olivos District).** Clean aromas of nectarine and white flowers are delicate, yet expressive on the nose of this blend of 38% Grenache Blanc, 31% Marsanne, 15% Roussanne, 8% Viognier and 8% Picpoul Blanc. The palate offers tropically inclined flavors of jasmine extract and juicy stone fruit, while holding a chalky texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$32

**92 Popelouchum 2022 Blanc White Blend (San Benito).** This is the second vintage of the mysterious white blend, which includes at least one gray grape variety from Randall Grahm's vanguard vineyard. Golden in the glass, it offers rounded aromas of apricot, orange zest, toasted almond and honey on the nose. The palate is vibrant in acidity and unique in flavor, with apricot jam and lemon peel touches. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Union Sacre 2022 Edelswicker White Blend (Central Coast).** Orange sherbet, light berry, orange peel and grapefruit-pith aromas align on the nose of this eye-opening blend of 33% Pinot Blanc, 30% Pinot Gris, 20% Sylvaner, 10% Riesling, 5% Gewürztraminer and 3% Muscat Ottonel. It's stunningly vibrant on the palate, where an energetic acidity cuts through the bold grapefruit and cantaloupe flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$22

**91 Clos LaChance 2022 Hadley's Cuvée White Blend (Santa Clara Valley).** Bright lemon bloom and peel aromas meet with scents of dusty earth and crushed rock on the nose of this blend. There's a compelling tightness to the textural palate, which offers plenty of citrus peel and flesh fla-

vors that lead into a stone-laden finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$38

**90 Calluna 2022 Estate Blanc Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Chalk Hill).** Deep, potent grapefruit and pineapple flavors give this lively wine a robust, assertive expression backed by snappy acidity to counter a rather full body. It's as if a splash of Riesling was added, lending spice and floral accents. But, in fact, it's a blend of 85% Sauvignon Blanc and 15% Semillon. —J.G.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$28

**90 Giornata 2022 Orango Tango White Blend (Paso Robles).** This is an orange wine for the masses, as it reflects the style in approachable ways. A burnt orange in color, the wine begins with mellow aromas of dried-citrus peel, rust and mango. The palate's texture is most intriguing, as flavors of dark honey, singed orange and more mango align. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$25

**90 Head High 2022 Skin Contact White Blend (Sonoma County).** Effusive floral, toasted almond and baked apple aromas are followed by a rather thick texture carrying dried apples, dried pears and almond-biscotti flavors that are rich and mouth coating. The wine makes a nice change of pace for pairing with sauteed scallops or aged cheese. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

**90 Smith Devereux 2022 Setta California White Blend (California).** This fuller-bodied, riper expression of Sauvignon Blanc offers beautifully layered aromas and flavors of banana peel, jasmine blossom, white strawberry, dewy grass, chamomile, lychee, peach and apricot. The palate has a balanced level of acidity against the generous (14.9%) alcohol, which imparts a smooth, glycerin sensation that rounds out the mouthfeel with finesse. —S.B.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$25

**88 Absolution 2022 The Balance Michaud Vineyard Hermitage Clone Rhône-style White Blend (Chalone).** Toasted nut, Meyer lemon and orchard-fruit peels make for an earthy nose on this bottling. There's a slightly sour citrus edge to the palate, where melon-rind flavors arise. —M.K.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$46

**88 Dos Amigos 2022 Paradise Road Bordeaux-style White Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Broad aromas of honey drizzled on apple and pear show on the nose of this split blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. There's a grapefruit-like acid kick to the plate and a lightly chalky texture, then the flavors fade into dried apple. —M.K.  
abv: NA Price: \$25

**88 Smith Devereux 2022 White Blend (California).** This is an overall well-balanced white that blends together Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay. Find notes of lemon, lime, white peach and

nectarine, jasmine and cherry blossom against a smooth, glycerin-like mouthfeel. —S.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$25

**87 Bartholomew Estate 2022 Fifth Hill Vineyard Marsanne-Roussanne (Sonoma Valley).** Austere in terms of obvious fruit flavors, this blend of two Rhône grape varieties is scented with petrol and peach skins, then turns dry and bracing in the mouth. It's lean in general, on a light to medium body. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$38

**84 Frey NV White Blend (North Coast).** This nonvintage white blend offers notes of peach and mango skins, just-ripe Bartlett pear and nasturtium leaf overlaid with an aura of fresh yeast. —S.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$13

## SPARKLING WINES

**94 J Vineyards & Winery 2019 Blanc de Noirs Sparkling Blend (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$65

**93 Caraccioli 2017 Escolle Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Santa Lucia Highlands).** A shimmering and pale color in the glass, this bubbly kicks off with lemon peel, wet dough and clay aromas on the nose. The palate is tight, bright and textural, offering lemon peel and faint stone-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$100

**93 Center of Effort 2021 EffortVescence Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Edna Valley).** A very pale shade of pink in the glass, this bubbly begins with soft aromas of watermelon, strawberry and Meyer lemon pith on the very inviting nose. The palate picks up a sharper angle, as zesty lemon and lime cut into that watermelon flavor. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$50

**93 Fesstivity 2020 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills).** Clean aromas of lemon peel and white flower meet with a pleasantly warm yeasty streak on the nose of this bubbly, which is a blend of 70% Chardonnay and 30% Pinot Noir. The palate is rounded with tangerine flavors and a bright, fresh and zippy acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$49

**93 Goat Bubbles 2021 Riverbench Vineyard Pinot Meunier (Santa Maria Valley).** Riverbench's planting of Pinot Meunier is showing up in numerous bottlings now, introducing a generation to this third Champagne grape. A mellow shade of pink in the glass, this bottling offers rose petal, pink lemon and wet-clay aromas on the nose. The palate snaps with pomegranate and raspberry flavors as a chalky texture holds to the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$58

**93 Iron Horse 2015 Stargazing Cuvée Brut Sparkling Blend (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$195/1.5 L

**93 Riverbench 2019 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Santa Maria Valley).** Precise aromas of baked lemon and wet dough show on the nose of his bubbly. The palate is brisk with lemon-peel flavors, as warmer pie crust elements lead into the deep, zesty finish. —M.K.  
abv: 11.3% Price: \$52

**92 Chandon NV By The Bay Reserve Blanc de Blancs Carneros Vineyard Sparkling Blend (Los Carneros).** A nose of lemon zest and phyllo dough leads to subtle flavors of green and golden apples draped in a lively, buoyant mousse. This attractive all-Chardonnay wine is fruity, nearly dry and quite appetizing in texture. —J.G.  
abv: 12% Price: \$32

**92 Fesstivity 2017 Anniversary Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills).** Crisp aromas of orange pith cut into the dough and light smoke elements on the nose of this magnum-sized bottling, which is a blend of 63% Chardonnay and 37% Pinot Noir. The doughy aspect carries into the palate, where lemon peel and refreshing apple flavors arise. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$130/1.5 L

**92 Loubud 2020 Cebada Vineyard Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Sta. Rita Hills).** There's a lovely array of tropical aromas on the nose of this bottling, from lychee to coconut, with an underlying citrus kick. The palate is dry and stony in texture, showing grapefruit peel and white rose. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$60

**92 Private Property 2021 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 12% Price: \$40

**92 Riverbench 2019 Blanc de Noirs Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** There's a toasty note to the nose of this sparkler, which also shows tangerine peel and a hint of apple flesh. The mousse is pleasant on the palate, staying high toned through flavors of orange, apple and yeast. —M.K.  
abv: 11.9% Price: \$52

**92 Thacher 2019 Hastings Ranch Vineyard Blanc de Blanc Viognier (Paso Robles).** A hay shade of yellow in the glass, this bottling offers lovely white rose, citrus peel and lemon-blossom aromas, with just a hint of yeast. The mousse is soft and appealing on the palate, where lemon flesh and lime peel flavors make for a sharp sip. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$85

**91 Birichino 2022 Pétulant Naturel Malvasia Bianca (Monterey).** Quite hazy in the glass, this bubbly smells strongly of grapefruit juice, yet with jasmine, plumeria and tangerine gummy accents. The mouthfeel is quite creamy, offering



# BUYINGGUIDE

prominent floral and citrus flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$28

**91 Chandon NV Réserve Pinot Noir Rosé Sparkling Blend (Los Carneros).** A bright copper color leads to fresh and refreshing raspberry and red-cherry notes in this well-balanced wine, while tiny bubbles give a creamy effect to the texture. The wine is ready for multiple food pairings. —J.G.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$45

**91 Field Recordings 2022 So Far Out Flood Light Snow Pet-Nat Sparkling Blend (Santa Barbara County).** A pale pink color in the glass, this unique sparkling blend of Mondeuse and Clairette Blanche starts with tart aromas of tangerine, underripe melon and strawberry sherbet, with a hint of earth adding complexity. The palate's aggressive, yet soft mousse carries pink lemonade and melon-rind flavors, proving a bit puckering by the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 10.99% Price: \$45

**91 Mini Vacay 2022 Rosé Sparkling Blend (Central Coast).** This canned wine clicks all the bubbly rosé boxes. Subtle aromas of pink lemonade are cut by wet earth and stone on the nose. A fine, pinpoint mousse carried a balanced expression of red fruit and crisp citrus on the palate. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$25/250 ml

**91 Riverbench 2019 Brut Rosé Sparkling Blend (Santa Maria Valley).** A lovely aromatic blend of strawberry cream, wet earth and sourdough show on the nose of this bottling. An aggressive mousse fires up the palate, where sharp citrus flavors cut through the red fruits. —M.K.  
abv: 11.9% Price: \$52

**91 Sea Bird 2019 Santé Brute Rosé Sparkling Blend (Carneros).** For full review see page 26. **Best Buy.**  
abv: 13% Price: \$19

**90 Birichino 2022 Pétillant Naturel Sparkling Zinfandel (Santa Clara Valley).** A beautiful shade of pink in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with tart aromas of grapefruit that are leveled by soft hints of hollyhock and a mineral streak of wet stone. The palate is very sharp and tart in red fruit, though the finish picks up a slightly more rounded tone. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$28

**90 Birichino 2021 Pétillant Naturel Skin-Fermented Malvasia Bianca (Monterey).** This cheekily named bottling, which went through 33 days of skin contact, explodes with exuberance upon opening, spilling nearly a third of the cloudy wine, which smells of sour yeast and citrus peel. The palate is quite compelling with prominent grapefruit juice flavors that could work well as a mixer. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

**90 Field Recordings 2022 Monte Sparkling Blend (Edna Valley).** A cloudy hue in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with aromas of grapefruit tonic. The palate is creamy in texture and the grapefruit zest, pith and flesh flavors keep on hitting. —M.K.  
abv: 11.2% Price: \$39

**90 Indigené 2019 Yeux De Chat Brut Cuvée Sparkling Blend (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 23.  
abv: 12.3% Price: \$64

**90 Loubud 2020 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Sta. Rita Hills).** This bottling from a historic vineyard begins with aromas of lemon peel and masa dough on the nose. The palate offers apple and grapefruit peel flavors, with a lingering sense of the dough carrying into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$62

**89 Just Enough 2022 Brut Bubbles Sparkling Blend (Central Coast).** Clean aromas of green apple, citrus pith and white rose show on the nose of this canned sparkler. There's ample foam to the sip, where tart green apple, lime skin and clay flavors align. Fine on its own, but would also make a great spritzer base. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$7/250 ml

**88 J Vineyards & Winery 2016 Blanc de Blancs Chardonnay (Russian River Valley).** A yellow gold color and chalky, straw-like, earthy aromas are followed by golden apples, grapefruit pith and white pepper flavors in this effervescent, mouth-cleansing wine. —J.G.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$80

## ROSÉ

**93 Refugio Ranch 2022 Rosé (Santa Ynez Valley).** A delicate shade of pink in the glass, this bottling is clean and chalky on the nose, offering lovely aromas of strawberry Smarties. The grip is tight on the palate, where the subtle but prevalent flavors of strawberry cream carry long into the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$34

**92 El Lugar 2022 Greengate Ranch & Vineyard Rosé of Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** This is just a classic, thirst-quenching rosé. Pale pink in the glass, the nose begins with chalk, strawberry and plum aromas. The palate is grippy in texture, with fresh flavors of pink grapefruit and lemon pith riding a chalky canvas. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$36

**91 Grimm's Bluff 2022 River Stone Rosé of Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Cab is not a common rosé grape on the Central Coast, but this delicious bottling argues for more. A prominent shade of pink, the wine's lovely and generous aromas of strawberry, watermelon and cotton candy drop into a zippy palate that's

nearly effervescent and loaded with cherry, chalk and lime-pith flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$36

**91 Jaffurs 2022 State Street Rosé (Sta. Rita Hills).** A fuchsia shade of pink, this inaugural rosé of this value-minded series succeeds on all levels. Pleasant strawberry sorbet and fruit punch aromas meet with light earth on the nose. The palate is clean, crisp and tightly wound around flavors of chalk and brisk red plum. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**91 South Coast 2022 Rosé of Grenache (Temecula Valley).** A lovely shade of pink in the glass, this Grenache-based rosé offers bubblebun and cherry sorbet aromas on the clean and precise nose. The palate is more subtle, reliant on a chalky texture to lead through the emerging strawberry-banana flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$27

**90 Blade & Talon 2022 Rose Madder Circle S Vineyard Rosé (San Benito).** A dark magenta in color, this is a rosé for those seeking more than just pale pink juice. The blend of 49% Cabernet Sauvignon, 37% Cabernet Pfeffer and 20% Aglianico offers pomegranate, rose petal and ash on the nose. The palate picks up tart cranberry and darker berry, set atop a grippy texture and refreshing acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$28

**90 Falkner 2022 Rosé (Central Coast).** For full review see page 22.  
abv: 13.4% Price: \$45

**90 Field Recordings 2022 So Far Out Soft Eyes Rosé (Santa Barbara County).** Subtle aromas of strawberry, orange and turned earth show on the nose of this Grenache-based rosé, which includes 5% Marselan. There's a lemon-peel bite to the palate, where river-stone elements show more texture than overt flavor. —M.K.  
abv: 11.1% Price: \$25

**90 Indigené 2021 Rozane Rosé of Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley).** Lively watermelon and cotton-candy aromas are undercut by chalk on the fresh and fun nose of this bottling. The palate's ripe red plum and cherry flavors are contained in a grippy texture. —M.K.  
abv: 12.5% Price: \$28

**90 McIntyre Family Wines 2022 Estate Rosé of Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Aromas of rose potpourri and tart citrus make for a unique combination on the nose of this bottling. There's a sharp pink lemonade kick to the palate, which is tightly wound in texture. —M.K.  
abv: 12.55% Price: \$24

**90 Rodney Strong 2022 Rosé of Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 23.  
abv: 13% Price: \$30

**89 Birichino 2022 Hic Sont Drancones Rosé (California).** This blend of 66% Mourvèdre and 33% Cinsault emits vivacious aromas and flavors of white roses, pink-grapefruit skin, white strawberries, red cherry, dewy grass and chamomile blossom. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**89 Lasseter 2022 Enjoué Estate Grown Rosé (Sonoma Valley).** A very pale peach color and light aromas of red cherries and raspberries are followed by yellow peaches and raspberries on the palate. Made from red Rhône varieties, the wine is lively, nicely concentrated and refreshing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Absolution 2022 Michaud Vineyard Rosé of Sangiovese (Chalone).** Leaning toward the orange and yellow shades of rosé, this bottling offers baked orange and rust aromas on the nose. That rust and citrus combination carries through the palate as well. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$36

**88 Domaine Helena 2022 Single Vineyard Pinot Noir Rosé (North Coast).** Aromas and flavors are just as delicate as the ballet-slipper hue in the glass. Notes of just-ripe white strawberry, cherry and sultana sit up against strong secondary notes of toasted wood, crusty bread and vanilla custard. Enjoy on its own or with an equally delicate dish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$24

**88 Josh Cellars 2022 Rosé (California).** Pale pink-orange in the glass, this basic California rosé has a palate driven by a combination of juicy acidity alongside a spritz of effervescence with subtle flavors of pink grapefruit, mandarin orange, lemon, lime and tart green apple. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Kunde 2022 Signature Estate Rosé (Sonoma Valley).** Peaches and apples in the aroma lead to a silky texture and soft cherry and raspberry flavors in this light-bodied, rounded wine made from Grenache and Syrah. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**88 McGrail 2022 Kylie Ryan Rosé (Livermore Valley).** A blend of 38% Merlot and 33% Malbec, this deep pink, fuller-bodied rosé emits immediate aromas of fermented strawberry, over-ripe watermelon, wilting roses, white chocolate and dewy grass warming in the summer sun. The palate offers a solid dose of energetic acidity against a touch of balanced phenolic bitterness. Easily enjoyable on its own, this certainly a food-friendly pink that would best be served with your favorite BBQ fare. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$28

**87 Songbird 2021 Rosé (California).** This is a simple rosé, ideal for casual occasions. Find notes of blood-orange zest and pith, golden sultana, green fig and lavender. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$13

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**95 Daou 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark and focused aromas of cherry, clove and caramel meet with creamy milk chocolate and mahogany on the layered nose of this bottling. Showing a deft mastery of tannins, which is the Daou hallmark, the palate is silky and yet structured, offering rich fruit and lightly bitter walnut flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60

**95 Jada Vineyard & Winery 2019 WCS Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** Very dark in the glass, this is an intense and dense Cab, starting with black currant, peppercorn and concentrated violet aromas on the nose. The palate goes even darker into elderberry flavors that are lifted by minty cocoa and licorice notes, set atop a lush, yet firm structure. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$75

**94 Field Recordings 2021 The Armory Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** This is simply a fun style of Cab, starting with fresh aromas of boysenberry and purple flowers that are intense and invigorating. The palate is juicy with maraschino cherry, mace and star-anise flavors, taking the 100% new French oak élevage in a punchy, expertly spiced direction. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$79

**94 Grimm's Bluff 2018 Contango Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** This is a very compelling showcase of how Santa Ynez Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, while a different animal, can be just as exciting as bold Paso or Napa bottlings. Precise aromas of plum, white pepper, packed thyme and charred beef lead into a tightly wound, very compact palate. Flavors of wild berry and plum are dusted in thyme, peppercorn and nutmeg. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**94 The Farm Winery 2019 Cardinal Old Bailey Vineyard Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** This is an impressively put-together bottling, appealing to both classic and progressive Cab lovers. Polished aromas of cigar box, black fruits and cocoa dust on the nose flow right into a firmly textured, acid-washed palate of blackberry, chai and light caramel. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$135

**93 Ancient Peaks 2020 Pearl Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Margarita Ranch).** For full review see page 10.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$72

**93 Benovia 2019 Cooley Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Northern Sonoma).** This handsome, well-behaved wine deftly balances delicious, ripe red and black fruits against good acidity and gentle tannins for a trim profile. While aged in 80% new French barrels, the oak spices are well interwoven.

It will be easy to pair with cheese, meat and poultry. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$100

**93 Comstock Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This silky, seamless wine offers deep, dark fruit flavors on a particularly smooth texture and can be enjoyed now or later. Nicely concentrated blueberries and blackberries are accented by vanilla, cedar and toast notes. Already aged a couple of extra years at the winery, this will drink best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60

**93 Drive 2021 Asti Ridge Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Laser focused and mouth watering, this black currant and spearmint-scented wine offers tight blueberry, black cherry and dark chocolate flavors braced by firm, fine-grained tannins and vibrant acidity. Falling slightly on the lean, restrained side of the ripeness spectrum, the wine is well balanced and very likely to age well for a long time. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93 Flambeaux 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** An elegant version of Cabernet from Sonoma County, this well-balanced wine offers red fruits, savory accents and a touch of black olive for a complex expression of the grape variety. Moderate, fine-grained tannins give support without intimidation. Best 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**93 Lamborn Family Vineyards 2020 Carnation Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** A nod to the family's legacy of growing carnations, this bottling is an example of a Napa estate heading south in the smoky 2020 vintage and the results are delicious. Fat aromas of black cherry, warm pastry, graphite and a punch of herb lead into a bold palate that picks up anise, oregano and black peppercorn to enhance the ripe cherry fruits. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**93 Opolo 2021 Reserve Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$55

**93 Ranchos de Ontiveros 2019 Canada de Los Pinos Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** Winemaker James Ontiveros cherry-picks his vineyards and this Cab shows why. Intense and brooding aromas of blackberry, cocoa, anise and mahogany show expert ripeness on the nose. The palate is very full and framed by chalky tannins, as lush black plum and berry flavors enjoy incense and palo santo spices. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$64

**93 San Simeon 2020 Estate Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**92 Flambeaux 2019 Flambeaux Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).** Spearmint, basil, black currants and dark plums waft from the glass as this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine brings concentrated blueberries and blackberries to the palate. A nicely polished mouthfeel and hints of baking spices round out its attractive expression. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$70

**92 Grimm's Bluff 2018 Cliff Hanger Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Quite bold on the nose with aromas of blackberry, charred meats, toasted herb and black olive, this bottling comes from a vineyard that was planted biodynamically. The palate is wrapped in a tense tannic structure that's bound to last, as flavors of smashed red berry, herb and flower will integrate more fully with time. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85

**92 Jess and Jules 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This big and brawny wine wraps plenty of delicious black fruits in firm tannins for a hefty mouthfeel. It's easy to appreciate the blueberries, cocoa, spearmint and oak-char flavors. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$25

**92 Lake Sonoma 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This wine from the Cabernet-friendly Alexander Valley is dense with black fruits and has a good, moderately tannic texture. Blackberries, graphite and cacao have good weight and breadth on the palate, and the finish is nicely dry. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$55

**92 Lucas & Lewellen 2019 Clone 6 Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Ynez Valley).** For full review see page 17. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$88

**92 Peachy Canyon 2021 Devine Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** A dark red-cherry scent is elevated by aromas of toasted wood and oregano on the nose of this bottling, which includes 2% Malbec and 1% Petit Verdot. That red-fruit core is dusted in cinnamon, peppercorn and thyme on the complex palate, which finishes with a pencil shaving touch. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$50

**92 Roth 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30/375 ml

**92 Sirin 2021 Quarryhill Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$55

**92 The Farm Winery 2019 Cardinal Old Bailey Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Smoothly integrated aromas of black cherry, strawberry and wood spice work well together on the nose of this bottling from an older vineyard. The

palate is firmly framed by tight tannins, providing a canvas for the warm fruit and ample spice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$100

**92 The Farm Winery 2019 LPF Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Lively and tart aromas of elderberry and frozen boysenberry are lifted by lavender on the elegant nose of this bottling, which includes 9% Petit Verdot. The palate is loaded with purple flavors, from elderberry and blueberry to violet and lavender potpourri. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Clone 7 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Vivid red and black-cherry aromas lead to deep and dark plum, cherry and cassis flavors in this firmly textured, broadly tannic wine. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$70

**92 Twin Suns 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).** A heady aroma of fresh-crushed blackberries leads to lively, exuberant flavors of black currants, black cherries, hints of thyme and cinnamon. Not too heavy, this well-balanced Cab is light on the tannins and appetizing on the palate. Kosher for Passover. Kosher. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Valravn 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** This taut and well-balanced wine offers focused aromas and flavors of black cherries, raspberries, cinnamon and toast on a firm texture of good acidity and muscular tannins. While tempting now for its layers of fruit and oak spice, the wine should show best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**91 Absolution 2020 Johnson Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (San Antonio Valley).** A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of baked plum and a dusting of herbs on the nose. Warm cherry-pie flavors are spiced by cracked pepper and a pinch of dried garden herbs on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$49

**91 Birichino 2021 Peter Martin Ray Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Hearty blackberry and black-currant aromas are dusted in bittersweet cocoa and warm fudge on the nose of this bottling from a historic site. The palate shows ample wood spice and dank herb aromas that will better integrate into the sappy tannins and dark fruit over time. Drink 2026–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

**91 Clos LaChance 2020 Whitestone Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley).** Lively and fresh strawberry aromas meet with sappy herbs and light wood spice on the nose of this bottling. Baked red-fruit flavors are layered in dried herb and oak on the palate, where a firm body and decent acidity keep the sip alive. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**91 Dolum Estates 2021 Cask #11 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Quite fresh in flavor and firm in texture, this full-bodied wine offers bright cherry and blackberry aromas that lead to nicely concentrated fruits and a good dash of oak spice from barrel aging. Drinkable now with rich foods, but better from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$82

**91 Field Recordings 2022 Hoss Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 21. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$29

**91 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** This is a fun Cab Sauv that keeps revealing more and more as you taste and let the flavor linger. Initial aromas are of black cherry, black currant, cologne, toasted wood, coconut and a beachy-sandy earthiness. The palate is driven by generous alcohol, modest acidity and a mouthful of tannins, alongside additional notes of clove, anise, black pepper and violets. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$75

**91 Lake Sonoma 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** Flush with raspberries, strawberries and red cherries, this vibrant, well-balanced wine shows the lighter, fresher side of Cabernet. It's a wine to pour with lunch or dinner and has the good acidity and mild tannins to pair with lighter mushroom and veggie-oriented dishes, as well as a grilled lamb chop. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$35

**91 Malibu Rocky Oaks 2021 Collective Lot 1 Cabernet Sauvignon (Los Olivos District).** This is a fresh style of Cab, starting with aromas of strawberry, cocoa and oak on the nose. The palate is energetic with more red fruit, as well as rose petal and an exciting white-pepper spice. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**91 Malibu Rocky Oaks 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Malibu Coast).** There aren't many vineyards left in Malibu after the recent wildfires, but this bottling is a strong case for bringing them back. Including 10% Malbec, 10% Petit Verdot and 5% Petite Sirah, the wine begins with dried cherry, oak spice and chocolate on the nose. The palate picks up oregano and cracked pepper alongside the blueberry core. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**91 Opolo 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dense blackberry, cacao bean and tar aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate is comforting, with flavors of milk chocolate, maple and fudge, with caramel-laced blackberry pie arising on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$42

**91 Pedroncelli 2021 Brother's Mark Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$24



**91 Rusack 2020 Vogelzang Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Dark cherry, sandalwood and cocoa dust aromas converge on the nose of this bottling of clone 337. Bright strawberry compote and sorbet flavors are enhanced by toasty wood spice touches on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$68

**91 Sarah's Vineyard 2020 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Santa Clara Valley).** Bold aromas of blackberry, toasted herb and fennel draw the nose into this attractive bottling, which is cut by a crushed-slate minerality. The palate shows much more wood spice, from sandalwood to mahogany, though the blackberry fruit shines through. This will be even better with patience. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**91 Sixmilebridge 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Intense aromas of blackberry syrup, licorice and fudge are quite dark and lush on the nose of this bottling. The palate combines blackberry and violet flavors with ample pepper and mace spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$96

**91 The Calling 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Iron, cedar and wood-char aromas waft from the glass before potent black fruits, dark oak spices and espresso flavors fill the mouth. A full web of tannins holds together blackberries, blueberries and singed-herb notes. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$37

**91 Verdad 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Hailing from the Whale Rock and Jack Knife vineyards and including 10% Petit Verdot, this is a lively style of Cab, proving elegant and energized, rather than ripe and dense. Aromas of cherry and blackberry are vivid on the snappy nose, while the medium-bodied palate offers light herb, cigar box and baked-berry flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**90 Comstock Wines 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Dry Creek Valley).** This robust wine is packed with blackberries and black cherries in the aroma, dark plums, iron and a touch of black pepper on the palate. Good, medium tannins and those hearty fruit flavors will make for great pairings in the grilled- and roasted-meat category. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$75

**90 Domaine Helena 2020 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** This is a very well integrated, easy-to-sip Cab Sauv layering aromas and flavors of black currant, black cherry, capsicum, toasted wood, rose, violet, black pepper and a touch of eucalyptus. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$48

**90 Dos Amigos 2021 Six Gun Cabernet Sauvignon (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).**

Dark cherry, toasty wood and baking-space aromas align on the nose of this bottling. The palate balances cherry-pie richness with dusty herb and dried meat flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**90 Force & Grace 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Clean and suavely presented on the nose, this new Joseph Carr project delivers a reliable Cab experience, offering black cherry, blackberry and charred-meat aromas on the nose. The palate's rich cherry, vanilla and mocha flavors are spiced by ample oak seasonings. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**90 Indigené 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Dark in the glass, this is a dense Cab, starting with aromas of dried blackberry, black olive and savory soy on the nose. The palate is quite thick with tannins that hold their edge deep into the finish, framing flavors of dark cherry, pastry dough and dried meat. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50

**90 Josh Cellars 2021 North Coast Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (North Coast).** A stellar bang-for-the-buck Cab Sauv coming out of the broad North Coast appellation. Medium-to-full bodied, the palate is filled with generous tannins, warming alcohol and a modest acidity that amplifies the concentrated fruit and integrated oak. Enjoy notes of dried black currant, blackberry jam, black cherry compote, bittersweet cacao, a hint of capsicum and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 Kunde 2021 Estate Grown Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma Valley).** For full review see page 23.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2022 Puerto Electrica Block Cabernet Sauvignon (El Pomar District).** Clean and fresh aromas of red cherry, seasoning salt and paprika make for a unique and likable nose on this bottling. There's a tense edge to the lightly herbal palate, where young tannins frame the strawberry, warm cookie and caramel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**90 Outward 2022 Massa Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Carmel Valley).** This is a very interesting and adventurous take on Cab, though those seeking a dense style won't like it. Light in the glass, the bottling from vines planted in 1968 offers aromas of fennel bulb, green peppercorn and chaparral alongside the brisk red fruit. The palate is more tart than rich, showing red plum and cranberry as well as thyme and cracked-pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$38

**90 San Simeon 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 23. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Clone 7 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** A lighter shade in the glass, this bottling offers rounded cherry, cocoa and coffee bean aromas on the nose. There's a rocky minerality to the palate, where light herb, wood spice and brisk cranberry-fruit flavors arise. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$17

**89 Fossil Point 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Bright blackberry and a pinch of dried red-flower aromas meet with a woody undertone on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean with that pure blackberry flavor that's lifted by wild mint and incense. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**89 McGrail NV Timeless, Lot 789 Cabernet Sauvignon (Livermore Valley).** An overall well-balanced Cab Sauv, this expression incorporates a blend of the family's 2017, 2018 and 2019 vintages. Enjoy notes of black cherry, toasted wood, black pepper, violet potpourri and tobacco. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$48

**89 Rodney Strong 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 24.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Sixmilebridge 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Adelaida District).** Dense and dark in the glass, this bottling shows very rich aromas of black cherry, blackberry and dried herb on the nose. The palate is loaded with extracted berry and redwood-like wood spice flavors, as bay leaf gives some edge to the lush, ripe fruits. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$96

**88 7 Cellars 2021 The Farm Collection Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** A bowlful of herb aromas—from anise to oregano—greet the nose on this bottling, with black plum and graphite scents also arising. Baked strawberry flavors on the palate are dusted in oregano, thyme and fennel. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$15

**88 Barrelstone 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This is a simple, casual California Cab with straight-forward aromas and flavors of red and black cherry, and plum, licorice, toasted wood, chocolate and roses. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$13

**88 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2020 Block Three Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Hills).** An overall balanced and quaffable Cab Sauv, this expression, which incorporates 10% Petite Verdot in the mix, offers notes of red and black cherry, plum, smoke and toasted wood. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$75

**88 Outlander 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

# BUYINGGUIDE

**88 Silent Sea 2020 San Lucas Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey).** Aromas of stewed red fruits and dried meats show on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard in southern Monterey County. The palate combines light herb and tart red-fruit flavors with prevalent tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**87 Double Black 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Cranberry and loamy soil aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. The palate picks up peppery spice and dried garden-herb flavors alongside the brisk black-plum core. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$12

**87 Ely by Callaway 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Aromas of asphalt, graphite and olive are dusted in garden herbs on the nose of this bottling. There are firm tannins on the palate, framing the woody, dark-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$19

**87 Hess 2021 Maverick Ranches Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Tart pomegranate aromas are dusted in pepper and strong, Red Hot-like cinnamon spice on the nose of this bottling. That cinnamon kick carries through the palate, where red fruits also snap. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Josh Cellars 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This simple California Cab offers straight-forward aromas and flavors of black-cherry compote, grape jelly, chocolate and toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$15

**87 Member's Mark 2020 Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** Straight-forward, fruity and lightly spicy, this full-bodied wine offers dark plum and raisin flavors, light tannins and a rich texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$9

**87 Montoya 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey).** Damp forest-wood aromas meet with smashed black plums and mahogany on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows plenty of wood spice as well, with bay leaf and a tart black-plum flavors at the core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$20

**87 Muirwood 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Arroyo Seco).** Dark, extracted aromas of dried berry, roasted meat and mahogany show on the nose of this bottling. There's a minty kick to the palate, where blackberry and wood-spice flavors converge. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Tribute 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Rounded black cherry, caramel and vanilla aromas draw the nose into this very oaky bottling. Butterscotch and candied red-fruit flavors

dominate the sip, where the caramel tone pushes deep into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**86 Barrel Burner 2022 Bourbon Barrel Aged Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** The bourbon-barrel treatment is rather hidden until the finish of this bottling. The nose is quite herbal, with wet thyme and marjoram aromas spicing up the cranberry core. Those same herbs are sprinkled throughout the cranberry sauce-soaked palate, with just a hint of warmth on the finish. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$15

**86 Precision Wine 2022 Headline Cabernet Sauvignon (Alexander Valley).** This deep, dark wine is saturated with black and blue fruits on a thick texture that feels soft and sweet. It offers a syrupy mouthfeel, blackberry-jam flavors and the profile of a dessert wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 The Smith 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paso Robles).** Caramelized oak aromas meet with dried blackberry on the nose of this bottling. The palate is ripe, nearly sweet, with vanilla and caramel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$38

**86 Whatever 2020 Bees Knees Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Malibu Coast).** Light in color, this bottling begins with crisp red plum, toasted herb and slightly sour wood aromas. The palate is quite tangy with balsamic pomegranate and sour red-plum-skin flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$58

**86 Winemakers Selection 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Monterey County).** Dark plum and wood-spice aromas meet with a sour leather scent on the nose of this bottling. That Old World leather tone pairs with blackberry and Dr. Pepper spice on the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**85 Black Box 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This is an easy, accessible Cab Sauv with a medium to full body, rich black and red fruits and just a hint of spices. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20/3 L

**84 Bota Box NV Nighthawk Bourbon Barrel Cabernet Sauvignon (California).** This full-bodied Cab Sauv offers voluptuous, overripe tones of black cherry and plum alongside raisin, prune and dried fig, carried by a soft tannic texture and a hint of sweetness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23/3 L

## PINOT NOIR

**97 Bob Cabral Wines 2018 Troubadour Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$125

**97 Chanin 2021 Wild King Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** From a vineyard in the western Santa Maria Valley hills that had gone nearly fallow, this delicious, eight-barrel bottling challenges conventional viticulture on many fronts. Smooth, rich and spicy aromas of cherry, root beer floats and mace lead from the nose into a clean expression of pure fruit and spice that's emboldened with a crushed-stone minerality. It's excellent and alluring, from back story to finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$60

**97 Emeritus 2019 Pinot Hill Cruz Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 3. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$110

**96 Bob Cabral Wines 2019 Troubadour Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 3.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$125

**96 Center of Effort 2021 Rosso Corsa Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** This is an elegant and detailed whole-cluster, native-fermented Pinot Noir, redolent on the nose of freshly smashed strawberries served on a plate of wet clay and chipped slate. A clay-like grip consumes the palate, carrying dark red fruit and intense pepper flavors, bolstered by a lively acidity. This vineyard, planted in 1997, must be in its prime. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$80

**96 Lester 2021 Travis Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** There's a dense core of raspberry, pomegranate and rose petal on the nose of this bottling, but it's the darker edge of forest floor that elevates the experience. The palate's acidity is zesty, and the pleasantly funky mushroom and meat flavors are compelling, serving as a foil to the dark currant core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$57

**96 Topophilia 2019 Valerie's Vineyard Méthode Ancienne Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This aromatic, spicy, tea-like wine exudes complexity through a wonderful array of non-fruity elements from black tea to turned earth, to redwood duff to bay leaves and rhubarb. While backed by subtle red cherry and dark-plum notes, the wine shows how fascinating the savory side of this grape variety can be. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$50

**96 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2022 Bacigalupi Vineyards Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**96 Waypoint 2021 Terra De Promissio Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Intricate savory aromas of bay leaf, spearmint and sour cherries lead to vibrant red cherries, cranberries and basil flavors in this complex and fascinating wine. Beautiful balance, textural tannins and a slight sense of restraint

keep you coming back for more. Best from 2025–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$69

**95 Alma Rosa 2021 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A dark shade in the glass, this best-barrel bottling is powerful yet elegant, offering aromas of ripe boysenberry and intense chai spices that lure the nose deeply into the glass. The texture is lusciously creamy and rich, offering black cherry and boysenberry alongside the cardamom, mace and clove spice elements. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$90

**95 Alma Rosa 2021 El Jabali Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** For full review see page 4.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$90

**95 Alma Rosa 2021 La Encantada Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A heady aromatic mix of loamy soil, smashed boysenberry and toasted bay leaf make for a powerful and nuanced nose on this bottling. The palate is dense with jammy fruits and sappy tannins, though it's the herbal flavors of oregano, eucalyptus and peppercorn that elevate the wine to memorable status. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$82

**95 Alma Rosa 2021 Rancho La Vina Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Winemaker Samra Morris is crafting very rich and spicy Pinot Noirs, and they're immediately gratifying. Intense aromas of black cherry, candied plum, cinnamon, mace and clove entice the nose into the glass. The palate follows in bold but elegantly layered fashion, presenting Christmas spice and warm-cookie flavors atop the reduced plum and berry sauce core. Drink up while the ripeness remains fresh. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$82

**95 Ancien 2021 River Ranch Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley).** For full review see page 4. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$60

**95 Benovia 2020 Cohn Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 4  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$100

**95 Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 4.  
abv: 13.05% Price: \$60

**95 Center of Effort 2021 Effort Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$40

**95 Chanin 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** The nose of this bottling leans into Old World elements of dried plum and berry with subtle hints of game. The palate brings fresher, richer cherry flavors to the party, with toasted sage and more charcuterie touches

as well. It's easy to like, yet quite complex. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$60

**95 Clarice 2022 Rosella's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$97

**95 CRU 2021 Clone 777 Sarmento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 15% Price: \$70

**95 Donum 2021 Hypersonic Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Fully ripe and rich, this bold and concentrated wine is also well supported by moderate tannins and good acidity for great balance. It shows power with grace in the focused black cherries, oak spices and cloves that swell on the palate and linger on the finish. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$125

**95 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Fox Den Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Cellar Selection.*  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$74

**95 Emeritus 2019 Hallberg Ranch La Combette Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Focused, structured and brilliant, this acid-driven wine wakes up the nose with bright cranberry and red cherry aromas before cutting the palate with tangy acidity, sour cherries, rhubarb and bay leaf flavors that are fascinating to savor. It's tight in texture, needing time to show its full potential. Best from 2026–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$110

**95 Holman Ranch 2021 Three Brothers Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley).** Beautifully fat aromas of Bing cherry and detailed, rich and juicy on the nose of this bottling, which throws in white pepper for balance. That cherry-pepper combo fires up the palate as well, where a brisk acidity carries into the joyous finish. This bottle disappears quickly. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

**95 Holman Ranch 2021 Three Sisters Pinot Noir (Carmel Valley).** This bottling from a hillside vineyard near the northern edge of the Carmel Valley appellation begins with a very juicy and approachable, yet detailed nose of strawberry and raspberry alongside sharp sumac and hibiscus aromas. The palate is tense and snappy, while still exuberant, offering red fruit and star anise flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$58

**95 Sandhi 2021 Sanford & Benedict Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** The earthy tones of black tea and sage brush on the nose of this bottling are balanced by the sumac, hibiscus, cinnamon and sour-cherry aromas. The palate is wrapped in tea-like tannins, offering pomegranate, pepper spice

and loamy soil flavors, with a light bitterness on the finish. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$65

**95 Sandhi 2021 White Buffalo Land Trust Jalama Canyon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Hailing from a vineyard that's situated in the southwestern corner of the county, this bottling, which benefits a regenerative farming nonprofit, begins with elegant aromas of rose petal, lavender, black raspberry and light earth on the nose. A zippy, brisk acidity sails through the crisp currant and peppery flavors of the sip, which dances across the tongue. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$65

**95 Talley 2021 Rincon Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$85

**95 Trombetta 2018 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** For full review see page 6.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$70

**94 Alma Rosa 2021 Radian Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Bold and dark aromas of cassis, boysenberry, violet and chai-laced coffee cake draw the nose deeply into this bottling. The palate's texture manages to be both soft and sticky, silky enough to carry the flavors of bake fruit and baking spice, but rigid enough to carry deep into the peppered finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$82

**94 Bucher 2021 Bucher Vineyard Opa's Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Savory aromas of moss, bay leaves, forest-floor duff and dark plums lead to a mellow palate of rather soft fruit expressions of black cherries and dried plums. They're backed by mild tannins and lots of floral, earthy and mushroom nuances that are fascinating to taste. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$75

**94 Carneros Ranch 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** A intriguing mix of dark fruits, savory herbs and oak spices waft from the glass as this medium-bodied wine grabs your attention on the first sniff and keeps it through a palate full of black cherries, bay leaves, black tea and blueberries. This complex, dramatic wine has a singular personality. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$28

**94 Center of Effort 2021 Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Lively raspberry, cinnamon and sumac aromas make for an electric nose of sharp red spice on this estate bottling. The palate is intense and layered, offering bright pomegranate, elegant lavender and rose petal and earthy thyme flavors, sure to please a wide array of Pinot palates. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**94 Chanin 2021 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Very light in the glass, this



bottling combines rustic dust and crushed aromas with rhubarb and strawberry on the earth-meets-fruit nose. The stony kick is prevalent throughout the sip, proving a perfect example of what mineral-ity means, while also adding snappy pomegranate, anise and thyme to round out the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**94 Copain Wines 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** All smoothness and polish, this velvet-textured wine is scented with rose petals, cinnamon and black cherries, while lively fruit acidity boosts the deep cherry flavors in the mouth. The wine is so welcoming, yet also structured enough to create myriad food pairings and to improve with further age. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$50

**94 Cotiere 2020 Sanford & Benedict Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark pomegranate, elegant violet, rose potpourri and spicy star anise make for a vivid, complex nose on this bottling from the historic vineyard. The palate is very floral, offering lavender and rose-petal flavors that morph into blueberry and açai, proving delicate yet expressive. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$68

**94 Donum 2021 East Slope Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This intense, captivating wine is tightly packed with black-fruit flavors, dark-oak spices and shaped by firm tannins for a nicely gripping texture. The oak-spice elements are well integrated with the black cherry and dried-plum flavors, boding well for further aging. Best from 2028–2035. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$175

**94 Drive 2021 Quan Vineyard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** This aromatic, textural and complex wine shows classic Pinot Noir scents of cherries, cloves and dark herbs, while revealing ample black cherries, sour cherries and an earthy, forest floor effect on the palate. It's a singular wine with a firm acid and tannin structure for pairing with food. Best through 2030. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**94 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Dutton Ranch Emerald Ridge Vineyard Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$74

**94 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 McDougall Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$78

**94 El Lugar 2021 Bien Nacido Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Ripe cherry, dried forest logs and dank herb aromas make for a very complex and heady nose on this bottling from an iconic site. There is firm tension to the palate, where bright raspberry flavors are layered in rose petal, hibiscus and damp sage, leading into a tight, waxy finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**94 Emeritus 2019 Hallberg Ranch Don's Block Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A vivid aroma of pine boughs and singed herbs is fascinating to sniff before tangy red cherry, cranberry and raspberry flavors take over in the mouth. The wine is distinctive, medium bodied and well structured with acidity and moderate tannins. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$110

**94 Future Perfect 2022 Our Lady of Guadalupe Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a zesty Pinot Noir from a new vineyard on the western end of the appellation. Strong aromas of fruit punch, sage brush and cracked pepper are playful but pointed on the nose. The exciting palate is loaded with spicy pepper that enlivens the crisp pomegranate and cherry flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$65

**94 Guarachi Family 2022 Sun Chase Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** A deep, dark color and brilliant black-fruit aromas get this wine off to a great start, then gorgeous, ripe raspberry, blackberry and cherry flavors flood the palate with deliciousness. Rather soft tannins and a silky texture make the wine a pleasure to sip, even gulp, now–2028. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**94 J Vineyards & Winery 2021 Eastside Knoll Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**94 Marimar 2019 Don Miguel Vineyard Earthquake Block Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Intricate, delicate aromas of carrot leaf, orange-pekoie tea and redwood duff waft from the glass before complex, woody, smoky, black cherries and black tea animate the palate of this medium-bodied, beautifully balanced wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$76

**94 McIntyre Family Wines 2019 McIntyre Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50

**94 Metz Road 2021 Riverview Vineyard Pinot Noir (Monterey).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**94 Papapietro Perry 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A good, taut balance and intricate spicy, leafy, savory flavors make us want to keep sniffing and sipping this medium-bodied, energized wine. Notes of orange and black tea, sour cherries, cinnamon and rhubarb call for pairings with venison, pheasant or Peking duck. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$61

**94 Pelio 2021 Estate Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Intense aromas of cherry compote are decorated with star anise, vanilla and oak on the nose of this reserve bottling. Chiseled tannins introduce the grippy sip, where a bright acid cuts

through the vanilla, nutmeg, mace and cherry-pie flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**94 Ram's Gate 2021 El Diablo Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Capturing quite well the earthy, savory aspects of Pinot Noir, this medium-bodied wine smells smoky, earthy and woody, while good sour cherry and black-tea flavors offer something distinctive on the palate. Pair with mushroom quiche, roast duck breast or anything with lentils. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

**94 Sean W. McBride 2021 Aisling Vineyard Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$32

**94 Talley 2021 Rosemary's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** For full review see page 9.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$95

**94 Talley 2021 Stone Corral Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Brisk and tart cherry aromas are warmed up by toasty pastry crust scents on the nose of this bottling. The palate is lively and energized with acidity, showing pomegranate and currant flavors alongside white pepper, dried herb and charcuterie touches. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$85

**94 Tongue Dancer 2021 Pinot De Ville Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast).** This wine is packed with bay leaf, cedar, black tea, mushroom and sour-cherry aromas that merge on the palate with the same earthy, herbal thrust backed by good, moderate tannins and energizing acidity. So delicious, detailed and complex. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**94 Union Sacre 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** This producer, usually focuses on white and orange wine, makes a banger of a Pinot Noir, at least for those who seek juicy freshness. Crisp aromas of red cherry, mace and geranium oil decorate the nose, while the snappy palate picks up raspberry and ample texture, with more sharp spice to balance the joyous fruit. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$25

**94 VML 2021 Lester Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Raspberry jam, rose extract, wild herb and light sandalwood aromas converge on the nose of this bottling from a vineyard near the coast in Corralitos. The palate is bright with strawberry, red plum and cinnamon stick flavors, leading into a finish awash in white pepper and fried sage-leaf elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$68

**94 VML 2021 Sexton Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Warm, ripe and smooth without heaviness, this vividly fruity-smelling wine has good acidity to keep it balanced and inviting, and fresh raspberry, red plum and cinnamon flavors that light up the palate. Moderate tannins add a bit

of grip to the mouthfeel and set it up nicely for pairings with roast chicken, Thai barbecue and lentils. —J.G.  
abv: 13% Price: \$72

**93 Acacia 2020 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Seductive aromas of spearmint, redwood forest and light wood smoke lead to satisfying, ripe black cherry, dark plum and black-tea flavors in this complex and delicious wine. A full body and moderate tannins give it just enough heft in the texture. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$27

**93 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2021 Wetzel Family Estate Pinot Noir (Alexander Valley).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14% Price: \$35

**93 Alma Rosa 2021 Caracol Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Rounded aromas of black cherry are lush on the nose, especially with inviting scents of gingerbread and anise cake to elevate the experience further. There are kicks of thyme, sage brush and fennel pollen on the palate, which surrounds a core of baked cherry and cranberry with a hint of smoked meat. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$90

**93 Arthur Cellars 2021 Gloria Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Opening with vivid raspberry and red-cherry aromas, this elegant, well-balanced wine offers pretty cherry flavors and light accents of cinnamon and oak toast. The wine is charming, easy to pair with food and can age nicely for a few years. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$60

**93 Belle Glos 2022 Las Alturas Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$55

**93 Benovia 2021 La Pommerai Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A good, deep core of black cherries drives this full-bodied and moderately tannic wine before it throws off cloves, wet stones, cedar and mushroom nuances with continued sips. It's well structured for pairing with roast birds or sauteed mushrooms. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75

**93 Blair 2018 DRC/943/115 Delfina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** For full review see page 10.  
abv: 14% Price: \$55

**93 Bricoleur 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14% Price: \$65

**93 Chenoweth 2019 Home Ranch Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Full bodied but very smooth and polished, this wine shows strong red and black cherry aromas and vivid raspberry and black-tea flavors, while moderate tannins add a

good, grippy texture. This is built for pairing with a roast duck breast or venison. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$100

**93 Chenoweth 2019 Treehouse Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Great balance, fresh red and black fruits and intricate nuances of roses, black tea and redwood duff make this wine fascinating to sip and savor. An elegant texture is created by moderate tannins, a full body and lively acidity. Aging in 85% new French barrels seems to have added subtleties rather than overwhelming them. —J.G.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$100

**93 Chev 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Brisk and clean aromas of fresh cherry meet with warmer maraschino notes and a light herb component on the nose of this bottling. The palate is tense while juicy, offering cherry, raspberry and peppercorn flavors, set atop a pleasantly gritty tannic frame. —M.K.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$80

**93 Clarice 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Though lower in alcohol than Adam Lee's usual style, this appellation cuvée doesn't scrimp on power. Creamy aromas of boysenberry jam and lilac lead from the nose into a palate wrapped in chalky tannins and dripping in black plum, violet and blueberry flavors. A light, young tartness adds to the balance. —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$97

**93 Clarice 2022 Garys' Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Rounded aromas of dark cherry and black raspberry are quite focused on the nose of this bottling. There's a smoked-wood layer to the palate, where juicy, fresh-fruit flavors cling to a taut structure, with savory herb and earth elements lingering in the background. —M.K.  
abv: 13.1% Price: \$97

**93 Cotiere 2020 La Rinconada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Cherry compote, cranberry, orange rind and dark red-rose aromas draw the nose deeply into this single-vineyard expression. There is a firm tension to the palate, where a smooth acidity frames the dark plum and elderberry flavors, with marjoram and light lavender elements adding complexity. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$68

**93 Dial Tone 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$29

**93 Domaine Anderson 2019 Estate Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** For full review see page 11.  
abv: 12.6% Price: \$55

**93 Domaine Carneros 2021 The Famous Gate Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This nicely concentrated and well-structured wine is ripe in black cherries, blackberries, pine and redwood aromas followed by a hearty, fruity, savory palate. Mod-

erate tannins and good fruit acidity give it a mouth-watering tang. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$95

**93 Donnachadh 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This appellation cuvée bottling really comes directly from the estate and makes for a phenomenally priced opportunity to taste one of the more exciting properties in the region. Crushed cherry, cherry pits, wild rose and crushed slate aromas make for a complex nose, and the palate falls in line with dark cherry, pepper, bay leaf and chaparral flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

**93 Donum 2021 Pearl Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This full-bodied and firmly structured wine offers plenty of ripe fruit and dried-fruit flavors along with some balsamic notes and oak spices backed by moderate tannins for a velvety mouthfeel. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$250

**93 Donum 2021 White Barn Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Amazing fruit aromas and a cherry-saturated palate are framed in a lighter body for a wine that carries inviting tension along with satisfying flavor. Black cherries, cranberries and sour cherries mingle with hints of cinnamon and clove. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 12.1% Price: \$125

**93 Dutton-Goldfield 2021 Deviate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Black fruits and dusky oak spices give this tempting wine a deep, dark expression as black cherries, black tea and cloves come into focus in the flavors. Moderate tannins and a full body contribute to a pleasant, mouth-coating texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$78

**93 Furthermore 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Lush and mouth filling, yet also vibrant with tangy acidity, this mouth-watering wine brings on the red and black cherries, cinnamon and raspberry flavors backed by moderate tannins. Its great balance will help it age quite well for several years. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

**93 Gary Farrell 2021 Russian River Selection Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$50

**93 Guarachi Family 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A tantalizing perfume of herbs, earth and rose petals leads to a full body and moderate tannins that help shape the just-ripe dark plum, black cherry and sour-cherry flavors that have a life of their own. Backed by vivid acidity, the pure fruit notes and subtle complexities demand sip after sip. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$65

**93 Hartford Court 2021 Truly Rita Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is a richly designed

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Pinot Noir, starting with aromas of black cherry, cola, root beer and anise-laced pie crust on the nose. The palate is juicy, ripe and bold, but with a more delicate mouthfeel, offering berry and cherry flavors that are dusted in fennel pollen. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$78

**93 J Vineyards & Winery 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$47

**93 J. Lohr 2022 Fog's Reach Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** For full review see page 13. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**93 Marimar 2019 Mas Cavalls Doña Margarita Vineyard Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$58

**93 Melville 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Baked cherry and boysenberry aromas meet with dark earth, star anise and eucalyptus leaf aromas on the nose of this appellation cuvée. There's a rich body to the palate, but the ripe cherry flavor stays vibrant and energized, bolstered by green sage and lemon-peel elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$44

**93 Native 9 2020 Rancho Ontiveros Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** Wild mulberry, dried mint and bay-leaf aromas draw the nose into this bottling from ninth-generation Santa Maria native James Ontiveros. The palate is loaded with charcuterie and roasted-boar flavors, as marjoram and incense elements enliven the black-plum core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$64

**93 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Riviera Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This pure, potent and focused wine offers a laser beam of black cherries, noticeable, grippy tannins and a full body. The wine's deep color, super-ripe flavors, rich mouthfeel and warm finish give it a resemblance to Syrah. It's a big wine suitable for further aging. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**93 Papapietro Perry 2020 Campbell Ranch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Intricate, diverse aromas of fresh herbs, red tea, carrots and red cherries lead to a vibrant palate of raspberries, cinnamon and sour cherries as this medium-bodied wine proves to be charming and full of surprises. Soft tannins and good acidity balance it out quite nicely. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$66

**93 Pelio 2021 Lindsey Cuvée Pinot Noir (Monterey).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$57

**93 Reynolds Family Winery 2022 Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$50

**93 Riverbench 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** This is a very successful appellation blend, starting with strawberry, wet river stone and dried mint aromas on the nose. The palate is cohesive and smooth, combining thyme, cracked pepper, earth and a core of ripe berry. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$36

**93 Sandhi 2022 White Buffalo Land Trust Jalama Canyon Ranch Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Plum and pomegranate aromas meet with lavender, rose oil and bay leaf on the nose of this bottling. There's a gamy kick to the palate, where savory spices of cracked pepper and thyme elevate the snappy red-plum flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$65

**93 Sarah's Vineyard 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$52

**93 Ser 2021 Rio Del Mar Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz County).** There's a tarry kick to the start of the nose on this bottling from a low-lying vineyard visible from Highway 1, and then bright raspberry aromas meet with cracked Telli-cherry peppercorn. The palate is very peppery, spicing up the dark-cherry flavors, all wrapped in a tense texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**93 Talbott 2021 Fidelity Sleepy Hollow Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$100

**93 Talley 2020 The Adobe Pinot Noir (Arroyo Grande Valley).** A blend of select barrels from the Rosemary and Rincon vineyards, this reserve-tier bottling offers fresh raspberry compote, white pepper and thyme on the nose. There's a lively snap to the plummy palate, where red spices and chaparral influences elevate the experiences. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$150

**93 Thirty-Seven 2019 Reserve Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** Pretty plum and raspberry aromas waft from the glass before vivid Bing and red cherry, cinnamon and toasted oak light up the flavors of this well-balanced, nicely tangy wine. Light tannins and great acidity keep it fresh and lively through the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**93 Tongue Dancer 2021 Rambling Fox Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Woodsy, raspberry and black-cherry aromas are followed by bold, concentrated black cherries, bay leaves and cranberries in the mouth. Medium to firm tannins add some grip to the texture and match the wine's concentration level well. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$59

**93 V. Sattui 2021 Pinot Noir (Los Carneros).** Sleek and well balanced, this elegant wine

gently carries red and black fruits, cinnamon and mint on mild tannins and a silky texture. Suited for a wide variety of pairings, it is harmonious in the middle and long on the finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$43

**93 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Brilliant aromas of black cherries, black tea and dark plums waft from the glass before robust black fruits, cloves and rosemary flavors hit the palate. The wine is firmly structured, mouth filling, ripe tasting, but still appetizingly tangy in balance. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**93 VML 2021 Hilliard Bruce Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Dark cherry-liqueur aromas meet with myrtle, bay leaf and thyme-speckled loam on the nose of this bottling. There's a spice rack of flavors on the palate, integrating mace and clove with baked cherry and creamy tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**92 Allan Hancock 2022 Clone 667 Allan Hancock College Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** This is yet another very delicious and affordable bottle from this campus winery, whose vineyard is across the street in the heart of Santa Maria. Aromas of crisp pomegranate and strawberry are vibrant on the nose, while the palate is loaded with more bright red fruit along with cinnamon and sumac flavors. Complex yet easy to quaff. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$20

**92 Belle Glos 2022 Balade Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** Dried cherry, baked plum and a full spice rack of aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Tense, slightly sappy tannins frame the sip, where black plum, stewed cherry and bay leaf flavors lead into a wood smoke-kissed finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**92 Belle Glos 2022 Clark & Telephone Pinot Noir (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$55

**92 Benovia 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$55

**92 Bricoleur 2022 Founder's Block Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 15.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$60

**92 Bucher 2021 Bucher Vineyard Three Sixty Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Tightly wound with tannins, this focused and fruity tasting wine offers a pure core of red and black cherries shaped by tangy acidity and a gripping tannic texture. The concentration is good, as is the staying power on the finish. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65



**92 Carneros Highway 2021 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$25

**92 Chenoweth 2019 Pinot Noir (Green Valley of Russian River Valley).** This generous, friendly and nicely complex wine features strawberries, red cherries, cinnamon and balsam flavors that make a soothing mélange on a rather full body that glides on soft tannins. —J.G.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$75

**92 Chev 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Black cherry, minty mocha, anise and oak spice aromas make for a comforting nose on this bottling from one-half of the original Kosta Browne team. The bold, rich palate pairs nutmeg, clove and eucalyptus notes with rich Luxardo and maraschino cherry flavors, all framed by fine-grained tannins. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$80

**92 Darioush 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$88

**92 Domaine Carneros 2021 Le Ciel Serein Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Very ripe and indulgent, this dried-cherry and blueberry-scented wine delivers good, pure black cherries and raspberries on the palate, supported by moderate tannins and some uplifting acidity. It is fresh and balanced, ready for a special lunch or dinner. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$62

**92 Domaine Carneros 2021 Tula Vista Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This relaxed, mouth-filling wine offers a very comfy texture that wraps around dark plums, light oak spices and hints of sour cherries. Delicious, cooked black cherries and black-tea notes give it plenty to savor. —J.G.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$55

**92 Donum 2021 Three Hills Year Of The Ox Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Concentrated in flavor and rather firm in texture, this well-structured wine cleanses the palate with good fruit acidity and moderate to full tannins while slowly unfolding black cherry and black-currant flavors. It's built for further aging and needs time to open up. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$125

**92 Donum 2021 West Slope Year Of The Ox Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Forest-like aromas of redwoods, pine and duff lead to big, dark fruit flavors and plenty of shaping tannins in this full-bodied, dusky, chocolate scented wine. Abundant toast, char and balsam notes from oak add to its flavor impact. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$175

**92 Flying Goat Cellars 2019 Cooper's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Peppery character aromas meet with cranberry, bay leaf and orange-peel scents on the nose of this bottling. The palate begins with a tart plum tone before open-

ing toward smoked meat, roasted fennel and ample thyme spice. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$58

**92 Hartford Court 2021 Land's Edge Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A maraschino cherry aroma and delicious cherry-pie flavors give a lot of fruity vibrancy to this full-bodied but lightly tannic wine. The focus and purity of red and black cherries is wonderful to taste. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$55

**92 Hunt Cellars 2021 Imagination Clone 667 Reserve Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A darker hue in the glass, this bottling begins with Luxardo cherry, plum extract and toasted wood on the nose. The palate is bold and ripe, but works quite well, showing dark berry, clove and cinnamon flavors that are held together by a tight tension. —M.K.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

**92 La Follette 2021 Los Primeros Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Savory, tea-like aromas and flavors dominate this charming, lighter-style wine as fresh acidity and light tannins give a slight, mouth-watering grip on the palate. Perfect for a roast chicken, sauteed mushrooms or sauteed salmon. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**92 Lester 2020 Mercurio Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Black plum, dark berry, bay leaf and dried-meat aromas make for a heady nose on this bottling. The palate shows similar qualities, from the gamy flesh to the plum-berry fruit core, with hints of chaparral spice adding elegance. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$57

**92 Mahoney 2021 Las Brisas Vineyard Estate Grown Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Savory and tea-like in aroma, with vanilla, red cherries and raspberries on the palate, this delicately flavored but full-bodied wine offers good complexity, fruitiness and balance. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**92 Mahoney 2020 Estate Vineyards Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Quite ripe in flavor and full in body, this broad and rounded wine boasts dried cherries, raspberries and black figs accented by generous oak spices of cinnamon, vanilla and cloves. Soft tannins keep it easy to sip. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**92 McIntyre Family Wines 2019 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Roasted berry and plum aromas are surrounded by scents of cedar shavings and lavender on the nose of this bottling. Though it's already a couple years old, it's still very tight in tannins, with pomegranate flavors floating atop vibrant acidity. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$38

**92 Montemar 2017 Bentrack Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Hearty aromas of baked

berry meet with game, bay leaf and incense on the nose of this bottling. There is a gamy note and a hint of age to the palate, but the wine remains vivid and alive with flavors of pepper, baking spice and dried berry. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$60

**92 Montemar 2017 Zotovich Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Candied cherry, pomegranate and hibiscus aromas meet with a dark sage note that's hidden behind the ample fruit on the nose of this single-vineyard bottling. The tension of the palate is persistent, framing the ripe fruit and peppery spices. —M.K.  
abv: 13.6% Price: \$50

**92 Pali Wine Co. 2022 Huntington Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 18. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$32

**92 Private Property 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Smashed black raspberry and black plum are lifted by toasted wood on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean and expressive, showing black-raspberry jam, tarragon and fennel-pollen flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$35

**92 Ram's Gate 2021 Gap's Crown Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Cinnamon, cherries and cloves light up the aroma of this pretty, well-balanced wine for a refreshing, polished expression that's easy to love. Imagine this wine with roast birds, grilled salmon or simply sauteed mushrooms. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$80

**92 Rodney Strong 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**92 Ross Knoll Vineyard 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Black tea, black cherries and subtle oak spices of cinnamon, cedar and clove animate this medium-bodied, rounded and moderately tannic wine. It is well balanced and packed with focused fruits. Best through 2029. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

**92 Sandhi 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A lighter hue in the glass, this appellation cuvée hits the nose with raspberry, pomegranate, bay leaf and dried-marjoram aromas, with a hint of game lingering in the background. The gamy characterie flavors presents more prominently on the palate, where oregano and tart cherry add to the experience. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$40

**92 Schug 2022 Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Loving the complex, savory aromas of—don't laugh—celery, carrots, black tea and raspberries in this medium-bodied, layered wine. A rather light mouthfeel is nicely lifted by light tannins and some good, tangy acidity. —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$42

**92 Sean Minor 2022 Sangiacomo Roberts Road Vineyard Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$75

**92 Storm Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling shows ample earth on the nose, from dusty rocks to summer-day soils, with red currant and mushroom aromas arising as well. That earthy mushroom funk gives depth to the brisk raspberry and white-pepper flavors of the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**92 Testarossa 2021 Fogstone Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Roasted red cherry aromas meet with dried meat and sage on the nose of this single-vineyard expression. The palate's snappy and fresh red fruits are lifted by mace and a pinch of chaparral herbs. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$76

**92 Tierra y Vino 2020 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Black-cherry cola and root-beer aromas meet with gingerbread on the heavily spiced nose of this attractive bottling. The palate is smooth in texture and packed with ample cherry and plum flavors to complement the array of star anise and clove spices. The oak grows more prominent with time. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**92 Trombetta 2021 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$50

**92 Trombetta 2021 Indindoli Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$58

**92 Valravn 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Generous floral and black-fruit aromas are echoed in pure, focused black cherries, cloves and cinnamon flavors, while moderate tannins are well integrated for a soft texture. It's a charming and flavorful wine that's easy to love. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**92 Vaughn Duffy Wines 2022 Pinot Noir (Petaluma Gap).** This generous, broad-textured, and ripe-tasting wine overflows with strawberries, dark plums and quince jelly, while a full body and soft tannins lend a comfy mouthfeel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Waypoint 2021 Fort Ross Vineyard Pinot Noir (Fort Ross-Seaview).** Richness, ripeness and a supportive tannic grip come together well in this bold, full-bodied wine. Red and black cherries are the through line from the first whiff to the lingering finish. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$69

**91 Allan Hancock 2022 Allan Hancock College Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** A

lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers chaparral, potpourri and pomegranate aromas on the nose. There's a zippy energy to the palate, where crisp cranberry and pomegranate flavors are amplified by thyme and oregano elements. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$20

**91 Bartholomew Estate 2021 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sonoma Valley).** Mouth-filling in texture and quite ripe in flavor, this rich-tasting wine is steeped in dried cherries, black cherries and sweet plums on a full body, backed by moderate tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**91 Belle Glos 2022 Glasir Holt Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Sharp aromas of sour cherry and earthy chaparral quickly evolve into sandalwood on the nose of this bottling from a newer vineyard on the western end of the Sta. Rita Hills. The palate is much richer, offering roasted cherry and ample herbs, with a tart acidity that persists long into the finish, but will mellow with time. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

**91 Bewitched 2022 Bewitched Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Inviting, ripe and mouth-filling, this full-bodied wine is plush and luxurious in strawberries, mulled cherries, cinnamon and cedar tones. Broad, soft tannins and gentle acidity add to the posh texture. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Birichino 2021 Enz Vineyard Pinot Noir (Lime Kiln Valley).** Muddled plum and black-tea aromas show on the nose of this bottling from a historic vineyard. Dried plum and dark spice flavors play on the sip, where the texture and energy are a tad subdued. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**91 Birichino 2021 Rodnick Farm Pinot Noir (Chalone).** A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers aromas of hollowed out red plums and dusty pomegranate on the nose. The palate combines tart cranberry with turned earth flavors, all presented atop a leathery texture that recalls the rugged setting of dry and rocky Chalone. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$42

**91 Blair 2018 Blair Estate The Reserve Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** This reserve wine from a few vintages back is ready to drink now. Muddled plum and mulberry aromas meet with petrol, toasted herb and a rusty minerality on the nose. The palate is earth and herbal, with a core of stewed plum and a classic vanilla-clove finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$70

**91 Bucher 2021 Bucher Vineyard Pommard Clone Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Ripe, bold black-fruit flavors are met by an equally firm structure of moderate tannins and full body. Meaty, stony nuances mingle with the black cherries and black currants in a way that keeps you coming back for more sips. Best through 2030. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**91 Cherry Pie 2021 Toro Hills Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Leafy, savory nuances in the aroma lead to good, ripe, dark plums and mulled cherries in this velvety, mellow-tasting and rather soft textured wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$55

**91 Cotiere 2021 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Sour cherry, wild raspberry and struck-stone aromas converge on the nose of this appellation blend. The palate dives into a more herbal expression, offering chaparral and bay-leaf elements against the stewed raspberry fruit and loamy earth minerality. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$45

**91 Domaine Anderson 2019 Walraven Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Integrated and layered already, this wine has ages to go before it comes fully into its own. For now, enjoy youthful aromas and flavors of red cherry, raspberry, dewy rose petals cacao and gentle oak spices. Those with patience, practice it—this wine will only become more complex and interesting with time. Drink now through at least 2030. —S.B.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$70

**91 Donum 2021 Mikado Tree Year Of The Ox Single Block Reserve Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This is a powerful, concentrated wine that is atypical of Pinot Noir. A deep, dense color leads to opulent fruit and subtle spice aromas before concentrated, dark plum and oak spices hit the palate. Substantial tannins support the dark chocolate, black cherry and blueberry flavors. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$125

**91 Glunz 2020 Spanish Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Edna Valley).** Smashed boysenberry, toasted pecan and rustic earth aromas show on the rugged nose of this bottling. There's a peppery spice that pumps up the crisp pomegranate and nutty flavors of the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**91 Hartford Court 2021 Sevens Bench Vineyard Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Tempting cinnamon, rhubarb and pastry aromas waft from the glass before mulled cherries, sweet plums and cloves saturate the generous texture of this full-bodied, low-tannin wine. Its acidity is relaxed for easy sipping. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$70

**91 Indigené 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Red-plum aromas are rounded on the nose, as pinches of herb and dried flower add depth. There's a firm tension that balances the ripe and rich strawberry and baking-spice flavors of the palate, with a toasted-herb touch arising on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**91 MacRostie 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**91 Montemar 2017 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Intense aromas of berry, cola, dried beef and struck stone show on the nose of this bottling. There's a leathery texture to the palate, where the persistent acidity leads through baked- and stewed-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$63

**91 Montemar 2017 Rancho La Vina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Lively and brisk aromas of cherry and cola are lifted by lavender on the nose of this bottling. The palate gains a richer element with ripe berry and potpourri flavors, but there is plenty of life left to this wine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$52

**91 Mount Eden Vineyards 2020 Estate Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Hearty and dark aromas of stewed berries and smoked spices show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite smoky, with barbecued meat and grilled-berry flavors, all bound together by ample tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**91 Nielson 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$19

**91 Octopoda 2022 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**91 Octopoda 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**91 Pelio 2021 Shelby Cuvée Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Muddled plums, fennel pollen and wood-spice aromas introduce the nose to this bottling from a new brand. Dried cranberry and sandalwood notes show on the lightly bodied palate, which is bound to grow more interesting with time. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$57

**91 Popelouchum 2021 Pinot Noir (San Benito County).** This first Pinot Noir bottling from Randall Graham's latest viticultural exploration begins on a rather reductive kick and takes some time—maybe even overnight—to reach its full potential, though that truly may be in the years to come. Aromas of dark fruit, light smoke and tar on the nose led into a rigidly structured palate of plum and pepper. Time softens the elements, allowing floral and spices tones to emerge. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$80

**91 Schug 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Brawny and full bodied, this Pinot Noir is bigger in structure than most, strapping its ample strawberry, cedar and cinnamon flavors in nicely firm tannins and good acidity. Pair it like a Cabernet with steaks, roasts and BBQ. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**91 Testarossa 2021 Doctor's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Bold and juicy aro-

mas of boysenberry jam are leveled by fennel frond and a rusty, rocky minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate lands with rather ripe strawberry and boysenberry flavor, as hints of herb and pepper balance the fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$78

**91 Tondré 2021 Tondre Grapefield Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Layers of cherry, mace, clove and cola make for a very familiar and pleasing nose on this bottling from the owners of this popular vineyard. The palate combines a similar mix of ripe cherry and ample baking spice atop an appropriately taut texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$40

**91 Tongue Dancer 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Full bodied, packed with black fruits and framed in moderate tannins, this atypical Pinot Noir is deep in dried cherries, blueberries and blackberries, and accented by toast, char and clove nuances. It is a concentrated, very ripe and mouthfilling choice that can pair well with steaks and roasts. Best from 2026. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Wente 2021 Riva Ranch Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**90 Absolution 2021 Old Chalone Clone Michaud Vineyard Pinot Noir (Chalone).** This is a lighter style of Pinot Noir that would prove refreshing on a hot Chalone day. Soft aromas of cherry cola and clove are easy going on the nose. The palate is framed by a pleasant acidity that cuts the cherry and vanilla flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$55

**90 Blair 2018 Delfina's Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** A light hue in the glass, this bottling is wild with tart cranberry fruit and herbaceous on the nose, offering thyme, bay leaf and rustic sage scents. The palate's cranberry and orange peel flavors are elevated by black tea and mint on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**90 Chamisal 2022 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** This is a very satisfying Pinot Noir for a fair price. Round and even fat aromas of strawberry cream and fruit punch are quite juicy on the nose. The palate's bouncy acidity elevates crisp red-fruit flavors, though there's an earthy edge keeping everything grounded. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$24

**90 Domaine Carneros 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Fresh Bing cherries and black raspberries give a tasty fruit core to this rounded, smooth-textured, still wine from the sparkling wine house. Light oak accents of balsam, cinnamon and cloves chime in on the palate and finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$46

**90 Emeritus 2020 Hallberg Ranch Elite Estate Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** High-

toned aromas of raspberries and red cherries lead to a broad but nervy palate of spearmint, cranberries and cinnamon in this moderately tannic, briskly textured wine. It's one of several micro-production items from Emeritus. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$110

**90 Emeritus 2019 Pinot Hill Elite Estate Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** A keen cranberry and flint aroma leads to vivid, tangy red cherry and sour cherry flavors in this acid-driven wine. Earthy, iron-like notes kick in on the palate and finish. This dramatic, singular wine will likely find many fans among acid lovers. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$110

**90 Fleur de California 2021 Carneros Select Pinot Noir (Carneros).** Polished and silky in texture, this wine opens with rose petal and dark plum aromas followed by baked cherries and plum jam flavors and a rich, almost sweet finish. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$25

**90 Frelander 2022 Sustainably Grown Pinot Noir (California).** This easy-drinking Pinot Noir is one to stock up on—and with a friendly \$15 price tag, that's an easy task, indeed. Enjoy fun, vivacious flavors of red and black plum, just-ripe Mission fig, savory spice and gently toasted wood. *Best Buy.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**90 J. Lohr 2022 Falcon's Perch Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** For full review see page 26. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$17

**90 MacRostie 2021 The Loch Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Smooth and pretty, this fruity, ripe and generous-tasting wine fills the mouth with broad flavors of plums, cherries and strawberries, while a rather soft texture and light tannins keep it gentle in feel. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$95

**90 McClain Cellars 2021 Wings Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Ynez Valley).** Stewed berries and toasted-oak aromas make for a familiar nose on this bottling. The palate picks up a compelling tension to frame the bold roasted cherry and rustic woodspice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$71

**90 Middleridge 2022 Pinot Noir (Palos Verdes Peninsula).** For full review see page 23. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90 Montemar 2017 La Encantada Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A bold blend of red and black cherry is spiced by cedar shavings on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers baked black plum, star anise and sandalwood flavors, with an acidity that flows through the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$54



# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Montemar 2017 Radian Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** A touch cloudy in the glass, this bottling offers damp wood and earth aromas alongside cola spice and baked plum. The palate is layered in wood spice, roasted berry, clove and nutmeg flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$65

**90 Riviera 2022 Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** This is a satisfying Pinot Noir for a great price. Aromas of dark cherry, root beer, light herb and loamy soil decorate the nose. The palate is bold and ripe with mulberry flavors that are cut by sage and pine needle. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$26

**90 Rusack 2022 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Pleasant aromas of strawberry, raspberry and light mint show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is straightforward with red fruit and light spice flavors that sit atop a softer texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$34

**90 Sarah's Vineyard 2020 Reserve Pinot Noir (Santa Clara Valley).** Muddled mulberry, sandalwood and incense aromas show on the slightly dried nose of this bottling. The redwood forest spice aromas are strong on the woody palate, giving an edge to the strawberry core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**90 Truett Hurst 2021 Black Sheep Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** All smoothness and fruity charm, this wine relaxes in ripe black cherries, blackberries and cinnamon flavors wrapped in rather soft tannins. While technically full bodied, it's light enough in mouthfeel for lunch or cocktail hour. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$52

**90 Waypoint 2021 Starscape Vineyard Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** An unusually deep color and plenty of oak-spice aromas lead to a lively, tannic palate packed with cinnamon, cloves and cedar flavors. The fruit flavors are subdued at first, but eventually show as dark plums and black cherries influenced by a strong woody character. Best to decant and drink from 2025. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$69

**90 Wentworth 2022 Nash Mill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley).** Juicy and red fruited with an energetic acidity means that this wine is a crowd-pleaser for sure. Enjoy layered aromas and flavors of red cherry, currant, pomegranate, wild strawberry, rose petal perfume and delicate hints of forest floor and damp soil. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$78

**90 Wentworth 2022 Wentworth Vineyard Pinot Noir (Mendocino Ridge).** This is a simply delicious Pinot Noir that combines fresh red and black fruits, integrated oak and fine-grained tannic texture. Enjoy notes of red and black plum, cherry

and currant, wet stone, chocolate, vanilla and a hint of licorice. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**90 Windstream 2022 Sarmiento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 24.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$40

**89 Alma de Cattleya 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Fresh tasting and seemingly light in body, this charming, fruity wine will be a great choice for lunch, cocktail hour or even chilled to sip at the beach. It offers fragrant cherry and raspberry aromas and refreshing acidity. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**89 Blue Canyon 2021 Reserve Collection Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** Lighter in the glass, this bottling offers wild plum, sour cherry, a rusty minerality and rustic sage brush aromas on the nose. The palate combines cranberry sauce, orange peel and charcuterie flavors into a savory show. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Chenoweth 2019 Bootlegger's Hill Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Full bodied, plummy and generous, this substantial wine offers a mellow blend of ripe red and black fruits with subtle cedar, cinnamon and toast accents on a broad, almost thick texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$100

**89 CRU 2021 Sarmiento Vineyard Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Toasted oregano and thyme aromas lead the nose on this bottling, with dark blackberry and oak spice also showing. The palate carries that line, offering bay leaf and dried herb alongside the baked-cherry core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**89 Domaine Eden 2020 Pinot Noir (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Muddled cranberry and pomegranate aromas meet with a leathery tone on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows that leathery, sour touch as well, with dried meat and dried-cranberry flavors most apparent. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**89 Donum 2021 Home Ranch Year Of The Ox Pinot Noir (Carneros).** This is a big, robust and rich wine that boasts ample oak spices and will work well with grilled or roasted meats. It offers elevated alcohol, dried black cherries, blackberries and a very full body. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$95

**89 Head High 2022 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** Broad, ripe aromas of cooked cherries lead to a generous, smooth palate full of dried cherries, cloves and cinnamon. The wine is big in body, rich and easy going. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$28

**89 High Roller 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** Cherry compote, mace and clove aromas recall mulled spices in kirsch on the nose of

this bottling. The palate is loaded with allspice and vanilla ice cream flavors, topped with cherry syrup. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$15

**89 Hunt Cellars 2021 Imagination Clone 777 La Encantada Vineyards Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tart but dark cherry aromas meet with sage-like herbs on the nose of this clonal showcase. The palate offers incense and wood-spice aromas, making a savory base for the dried cherry fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$65

**89 Precision Wine 2022 Navigator Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** Effusive fruit flavors from strawberries to red and black cherries and blueberries give this full-bodied wine an exuberant personality, backed as they are by good fruit acidity and light tannins. It is charming enough to drink now and can pair well with grilled salmon or red meats. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**89 Tongue Dancer 2021 Putnam Vineyard Pinot Noir (West Sonoma Coast).** This velvety wine opens with cherry cola and black-cherry aromas before sour and red cherry, and warm cedar and vanilla notes take over the palate. Look for light tannins that are just enough to add a little tension and rather soft acidity overall. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$75

**89 Valley of the Moon 2021 Pinot Noir (Sonoma County).** High-toned raspberries, strawberries and darker cherry flavors are imbued with nervy acidity and moderate tannins in this lithe, relatively light-bodied and well-balanced wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$34

**88 Bishop's Peak 2022 Pinot Noir (San Luis Obispo County).** A mix of raspberry and earth aromas introduce the nose to this bottling, which also shows herbal hints of thyme. The palate is more candied, with pleasantly ripe strawberry flavors and just enough acidity. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Blair 2018 Morgantini Vineyard Pinot Noir (Arroyo Seco).** This bottling is quite sharp and tart throughout, starting with red plum skin on the nose along with toasted sage. The palate is refreshing with sour-cherry flavors as the chaparral herbs add nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.47% **Price:** \$50

**88 Castle Rock 2022 Reserve Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** A good sense of restraint characterizes this medium-bodied wine as lean black cherries, wood and cranberries activate your taste buds, while good acidity adds a mouth-watering texture. It's a sturdy wine to go with food. *Best Buy.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Cline 2021 Fog Swept Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** Oak spices, dark plums and cloves fill the aroma of this full-bodied wine before a

snappy, rather lean palate reveals cranberries, sour cherries and earthy notes. The tannins are firm and drying, so it's not a light wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$35

**88 Highlands 41 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Dried cherry, toasted oak and light loam aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There's a dark cherry core to the palate, where thyme and pepper bring spice, as a firm texture holds into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**88 Jax 2022 Y3 Pinot Noir (Russian River Valley).** This generous, ripe and mouth-filling wine offers very ripe fruit flavors, a broad texture and velvety tannins topped by hints of vanilla and cherry cream. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$25

**88 Josh Cellars 2022 Josh Pinot Noir (Central Coast).** Black cherry, cola and turned-earth aromas meet on the nose of this bottling. Pleasant flavors of roasted cherry and strawberry are enhanced by wild thyme and chaparral herbs on the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Member's Mark 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$10

**88 Montemar 2017 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Tart aromas of wild plum, orchard floor and lavender are quite floral on the nose of this bottling. The palate is a bit wild and tart with plum and more lavender flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$46

**88 Montemar 2017 Hilliard Bruce Vineyard Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Baked red fruit, nutmeg-laced pastry and salted-meat aromas show on the nose of this bottling, which is hinting at its age. The palate is tart and lightly funky, offering berry and dried-meat flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$52

**88 Winemakers Selection 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Subtle boysenberry, dried sagebrush and light smoke aromas make for a familiar and pleasant nose on this bottling. The palate picks up complex touches of crisp plum and berry with clean yet earthy herb elements. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

**87 7 Cellars 2021 The Farm Collection Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Tart red and black plum aromas meet with damp stones and turned earth on the nose of this bottling. Subtle cherry, toasted herb and sour citrus peel flavors show on the palate. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$15

**87 Cobble Creek 2022 Pinot Noir (Paso Robles).** Bright cherry, crushed rocks and light thyme

make for a compelling combo on the nose of this bottling. The palate's dried pomegranate and rocky earth flavors are cut by a bitter herb component. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87 Donum 2021 Year Of The Ox Pinot Noir (Carneros).** A heavy oak-char aroma is followed by a chunky, smoky array of black pepper, heavy toast and grilled plum flavors in this dramatic, oaky, full-bodied wine. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$95

**87 Figge 2019 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Extracted aromas of ripe berries and oak are quite evident on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also rich and ripe with dried berry and wood flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$35

**87 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2022 Pinot Noir (Sta. Rita Hills).** Strong aromas of incense and cedar shavings meet with dark leather on the nose of this bottling. There's a poppy acidity to the palate that cuts through the dark berry, dried herb and leather flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 Hitch 2021 Pinot Noir (Santa Barbara County).** This is a very herbaceous style of Pinot Noir, with oregano and anise adding to the muddled-cranberry aromas on the nose. The palate picks up marjoram and bay leaf along with richer roasted cherry-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**86 Imagery 2021 Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Very oaky aromas dominate the nose of this bottling, which also shows baked cherry. The palate offers a similar combination of dominant wood and underlying red fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$42

**86 San Simeon 2022 Pinot Noir (Monterey).** Dark in the glass, this county cuvée is very smoky and fruity on the nose, combining charred wood with berry jam, as vanilla and nutmeg add spice. The palate is quite extracted and dense, showing stewed fruits with hints of chocolate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**85 Precision Wine 2022 Headline Pinot Noir (Sonoma Coast).** This wine has the deep color, showy oak aromas and potent black fruits of a Syrah or Cabernet, so it's not going to please a proven Pinot Noir fan, but serves well as a flashy red blend. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**84 Precision Wine 2022 Embroidery Pinot Noir (Monterey County).** Very dark in the glass, this is a very ripe style of Pinot Noir. Blackberry pudding, caramel and liquefied oak aromas lead from the nose into a palate packed with more oak and cherry cocktail flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

## CABERNET FRANC

**94 Future Perfect 2022 Portico Hills Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Barbara County).** Transparent, yet an intensely dark shade of red in the glass, this wondrous Cab Franc starts with aromas of plum, cherry, forest floor and cracked pepper. The palate is suave in texture, starting smooth and creamy before the tannins tighten around flavors of white and black pepper, dark plum and purple fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$128

**93 Outward 2022 Curtis Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** This bottling is both serious and fun. Intense aromas of crushed berries, sansho pepper and rosemary are brooding, yet fresh on the nose. The palate smashes boysenberry and black pepper together with dewy herbs and a waxy texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**93 Sunstone 2021 Estate Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** This estate-grown Cab Franc hits the classic notes for the variety, combining fresh strawberry and pomegranate with wild herb and peppery spices. The palate snaps with that red fruit, as bay leaf and white pepper make for an exciting sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$70

**92 Sixmilebridge 2020 Cabernet Franc (Ade-laida District).** Cassis and elderberry aromas meet with violet and dark wood shavings on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows an expertise in extraction, pulling just enough blueberry and blackberry to pair with the cocoa and mahogany notes, as violet fires up on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**91 McClain Cellars 2020 Kayla's Crush Cabernet Franc (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dark elderberry, dense purple flower and smoked-meat aromas converge on the tightly wound nose of this bottling. The palate expresses Cab Franc's peppery side quite well, while retaining a bold and dark fruit character. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.66% **Price:** \$75

**90 Babcock 2021 Bright Fortune Camp 4 Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Santa Barbara County).** Tightly wound aromas of cranberry and cherry meet with a dark wood spice on the nose of this bottling. The palate is full of red fruits with hints of baking spice and toasted herbs. —M.K.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$48

**90 McGrail 2020 Cabernet Franc (Livermore Valley).** Deep ruby-purple in the glass, this 100% Cab Franc emits immediate aromas that speak to varietal specificity: light rose and violet petals interwoven with a mixture of red and black fruits. The palate offers a modest acidity against warming alcohol and a coarse tannic texture, knit-

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ting additional flavors of cacao and dried tomato leaf. —S.B.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$52

**90 Monte De Oro 2019 Cabernet Franc (Temecula Valley).** Dark cranberry, mahogany, anise and oregano aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is medium bodied, offering fennel, licorice and stewed red fruits, with a tight enough frame. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$46

**88 T. Berkley Wines 2021 Thalia Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Knights Valley).** Cedar, graphite and iron in the aroma give way to punchy black cherries, tobacco and espresso flavors on the palate. This firmly tannic wine is true to the varietal, being a bit lean on fruit and long on smoky, savory notes. Best from 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$50

**87 Jamie Slone Wines 2018 Cabernet Franc (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Roasted red-cherry aromas are heavy on the nose of this bottling. There are ample tannins and acidity to the sip, where the red fruit picks up a slightly wild and sour tone. —M.K.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$55

## GRENACHE

**94 Optio 2021 Grenache (San Luis Obispo County).** Dark and dense in the glass, this is a ripe style of cool-climate Grenache, offering boysenberry, star anise, cocoa and fennel on the nose. The palate is bold with more boysenberry juice flavors that are enlivened by peppery spices and a persistent acidity. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$58

**93 Center of Effort 2021 La Forma Grenache (Edna Valley).** Dark maraschino and Luxardo cherry aromas meet with candied rose and dark mint touches on the nose of this bottling, one of the first Grenaches from this producer. Violet, lavender and a dark, almost blueberry fruit tone show on the sip, where tight, grippy tannins ensure an interesting cellar life to come. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: NA Price: \$60

**93 Comstock Wines 2019 Jemrose Grenache (Bennett Valley).** Exotic, effusive violet and wild blackberry aromas meet with laser-focused blackberries and black cherries on the palate, enhanced with subtle oak spices and braced by good tannins and acidity. The wine is striking in its aromatic intensity, and well balanced for drinking now–2028. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
abv: 14% Price: \$42

**93 Future Perfect 2022 Portico Hills Vineyard Grenache (Santa Barbara County).** This is a very light style of Grenache from a vineyard next to the town of Los Alamos, offering appealing aromas of red apple, cherry granita and sumac on the nose.

It's easy going on the palate, offering strawberry, cherry and rose-water flavors, as well as a hint of mushroom on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
abv: 13% Price: \$54

**93 Jaffurs 2020 Grenache (Ballard Canyon).** Red plum, scarlet red rose petal and orange-peel aromas converge on the nose of this bottling. There is a tart red fruit tone to the palate, where rose water, hibiscus and richer cherry flavors also arise alongside toasted herb on the tightly wound finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**93 Margerum 2022 Grenache (Santa Barbara County).** This is a lush style of Grenache, starting with appealing aromas of black raspberry, loads of purple flower and a spicy cardamom kick. The palate stays light on its feet, while delivering ripe flavors of blackberry cream soda, chai spice and hibiscus tea. —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$40

**93 Refugio Ranch 2021 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dark cherry, rose water, light smoke and turned-earth aromas make for a complete nose on this bottling. There's ample and long-lingering texture to the palate, where creamy black-cherry flavors are spiced in licorice and light pepper. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$45

**92 Caelesta 2020 Vega Grenache (Templeton Gap District).** The complex nose on this bottling balances dark and bright cherry with earthy aromas of dried soil and crushed rocks. A similarly rocky minerality wraps around the grippy palate, where kirsch and baking-spice flavors align. —M.K.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$75

**92 Hungry Hawk 2021 Estate Grenache (San Diego County).** A light hue in the glass, this estate bottling begins with mineral-driven aromas of crushed stone that enhance the raspberry and rose water punch scents. There's a sizzle of acidity to the palate, where more crushed-rock flavors meet with chaparral herbs and a core of red fruit. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$56

**92 Jacuzzi 2021 Giocondo J. Poppe Vineyard Grenache (Los Carneros).** With the balance of a top Chianti Classico, this appetizing, grippy wine is lip-smacking fun to drink and will wash down the richest risotto or lasagna. Vivid acidity and moderate tannins do a great job of supporting the black pepper and sour-cherry flavors. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$52

**91 Dovecote 2020 Thompson Vineyard Grenache (Alisos Canyon).** A straightforward set of cherry, red apple and cola aromas introduce the nose to this bottling. There's a chalky texture that offsets the juicy red-fruit flavors, with mace, cinnamon and ample acidity completing the sip. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$65

**91 Kobler 2021 Cuvée of the River Grenache (Russian River Valley).** Bright fruit flavors and a hefty structure make this wine good to drink now with meaty, cheesy dishes or save it for a while to look for more complexity. Strawberry and raspberry notes are nicely backed by fruit acidity and moderate tannins for a bit of a grippy texture. —J.G.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$60

**91 Lumen 2021 Grenache (Santa Barbara County).** This is a richer style of Grenache from Alisos Canyon, but it works well. Starting with aromas of cherry compote, star anise and hints of peppercorn, the bold palate is full of texture and acidity that present flavors of strawberry, baking spice and shaved wood. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**91 Staysail 2020 Hollyhock Vineyard Grenache (Templeton Gap District).** A lighter hue in the glass, this bottling offers raspberry, white pepper, damp sage and a touch of smoke on the nose. The palate is brisk in cranberry and pomegranate flavors, as sappy herb elements add nuance to the quaffable finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.9% Price: \$40

**90 Mesa Del Sol 2021 Grenache (Arroyo Seco).** Precise cherry, crushed stone, toasted herb and light leather aromas show on the nose of this bottling. Tight, still young tannins frame the sip, where cranberry and raspberry flavors make for a tart expression. —M.K.  
abv: 12.9% Price: \$28

**90 Mesa Del Sol 2019 Grenache (Arroyo Seco).** Very light and transparent in the glass, this is an ethereal take on Grenache, starting with light pomegranate, herb, cherry water and earth on the nose. The palate's pomegranate and herb flavors work well together atop a very light texture. —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$29

**90 Tierra y Vino 2020 La Presa Vineyard Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Black cherry, caramel and toasty cocoa-spice aromas make for a very rich style of Grenache in this bottling. The palate is heavy and rich with oak, smoke and charred meat flavors, offering just enough tension to keep it lively. —M.K.  
abv: 14.2% Price: \$52

**89 Sunstone 2021 Grenache (Santa Ynez Valley).** Light and transparent in the glass, this bottling begins with aromas of sour cherry, crushed rocks and earthy dust on the nose. There's a light hint of toast to the nose, where tart cherry and red-currant flavors meet with pepper and herbs. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$45

**88 Sean Minor 2022 Invited Series Rossi Ranch Grenache (Sonoma Valley).** Light in color, this full-bodied but gentle wine offers strawberries, cherries and red raspberries in the aroma, followed by fresh and fruity flavors drenched in red and blackberries on a smooth texture. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$75



## SYRAH

**96 Bricoleur 2021 Kick Ranch Vineyard Syrah (Fountaingrove District).** For full review see page 3. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 15.1% Price: \$60

**96 Dovecote 2020 Thompson Vineyard Syrah (Alisos Canyon).** The warm vintage of 2020 worked well for this bottling, which begins with bursting aromas of elderberry, blueberry and açai, as violet and lavender elements add a floral elegance. The palate is wrapped in a firm texture and a persistent acidity, yet it remains accessible due to warm flavors of blackberry and more purple flowers. —M.K.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$65

**96 Jaffurs 2021 Donnachadh Vineyard Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** This is one of the most exciting vineyards in the appellation, especially for its zesty cool-climate Syrah. This bottling hits the nose with aromas of snappy raspberry, rosemary-crusted lamb and a massive amount of white pepper. The palate falls in line, popping with brisk pomegranate and raspberry fruit alongside singed sage brush and a spicy rainbow peppercorn medley. —M.K.  
abv: 13.3% Price: \$46

**96 Sandhi 2021 Anika Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** The nose on this bottling from one of the state's oldest cool-climate Syrah vineyards is energized and exciting, showing fresh black raspberry alongside bay leaf, cracked green peppercorn and lively purple flowers. The palate is engaging as well, with herb-soaked strawberry, lavender, violet and black-pepper flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 12.7% Price: \$75

**96 Stolpman 2021 The Great Places Ruben Solorzano Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** This bottling from an own-rooted block is built for the cellar, where its slightly rugged edges will refine into memorable sips for years to come. Aromas of raw and seared lamb, scorched earth and elderberry slide into an acid-powered palate, where cracked pepper, soy sauce, red and purple fruit and aged cheese flavors align. Drink 2025–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$98

**96 VML 2021 Lester Vineyard Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains).** The reductive hints of tar and charred meat open toward lilac, elderberry and blueberry on the layered nose of this bottling, which is built for the cellar. There's a tarry grip to the palate, where smoked meat, cracked pepper and an underlying dense, dried elderberry fruit tone holds deep into the finish. Expect further greatness to come. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 12.8% Price: \$52

**95 Caraccioli 2021 Escolle Vineyard Syrah (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5.  
abv: 13.91% Price: \$60

**95 Kendric Vineyards 2020 Proprietor Grown Syrah (Petaluma Gap).** Meaty, funky, flinty aromas lead to vivid gamy, earthy, smoky flavors in this textbook Syrah. Good, integrated tannins brace grilled plums, beef jus and black pepper on the palate, while the mouthfeel is balanced and appetizing. Mushrooms are a great target for pairing. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$28

**95 Kobler 2019 Kobler Family Vineyards Estate Reserve Syrah (Russian River Valley).** Elegant but muscular, this beautifully balanced and sculpted wine is aromatic in violets and star anise, layered with black fruit and black-pepper flavors and interlaced with supportive, energized tannins for an appetizing texture and long life ahead. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$96

**95 Stolpman 2021 Great Places August James Stolpman Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** This meticulously farmed bottling brings a ton of complexity to the glass, starting with aromas of seared lamb and scorched earth as well as açai, violet and lavender. The palate is intense with tarry, gamy flavors of charred meat, as thyme and lavender provide an elegant lift. The acidity is pumping hard and the finish is minty. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$98

**94 Barton 2021 Paradise City Glenrose Vineyard Shiraz (Adelaida District).** There's a great snap of violet, black raspberry, potpourri and peppercorns on the nose of this bottling of the Shiraz clone, which also includes 5% Viognier. The palate lands with lively blueberry, açai, lavender and warm pastry-flake flavors, with a hint of herb on the finish. —M.K.  
abv: 14.4% Price: \$68

**94 Bolt To Wines 2021 Syrah (Sta. Rita Hills).** Fresh aromas of black raspberry, lavender and Dr. Pepper pop on the nose of this cool-climate Syrah. The palate is zippy with acidity, lightly bodied and vividly complex, showing crisp plum, cracked pepper, charred meat and more of that lavender-raspberry floral freshness. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**94 Head High 2022 Syrah (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$30

**94 Jaffurs 2020 Upslope Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** This reserve-level, top-barrel bottling from this legacy producer, which is based in downtown Santa Barbara, pushes the power envelope. Aromas of stewed blackberry, light soy, dried beef and oak spice lead from the nose into a savory palate, where hints of Worcestershire sauce and

charred beef tips are balanced by blackberry and violet flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$80

**94 MacLaren 2019 Bonnie Glen Vivio Vineyard Syrah (Bennett Valley).** An earthy, seductive complexity draws you into this layered and complex wine. Aromas of black figs, new leather and spiced plums lead to a smooth, broad texture and nicely rich, indulgent fruit flavors that are deep, chocolaty and persistent. Best through 2028. —J.G.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$54

**94 Ramey 2020 Syrah (Sonoma Coast).** Flinty, charred aromas and rather lean, smoky, meaty flavors give this wine a dramatic, austere expression compared to the typical big and ripe California red. It's an adventure in savory, peppery complexity to pair with grilled quail, roast venison or cassoulet. Best through 2033. *Hidden Gem.* —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$50

**94 Stolpman 2021 Angeli Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** The nose on this reserve-style Syrah is complex, but not overly dense, combining black raspberry, toasted pecan, charred meat and dark olive on the nose. Sticky tannins frame the leathery palate, where a persistent acidity cuts through the plum flavors. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$72

**94 Stolpman 2021 Originals Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Dark, somewhat musty earth aromas meet with beach tar and smashed-berry aromas on the complex nose of this bottling. The palate is dense and rich with toasted cocoa and roasted berry flavors, but it's the searing acidity that will ensure a long life. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$48

**93 Center of Effort 2021 La Salita Syrah (Edna Valley).** It's great to see winemaker Nathan Carlson explore the potential for Syrah in Edna Valley. Dark plum, berry and purple-flower aromas meet with charred meat and coffee bean on the nose. The palate is dense and rather rich, offering baked berry, bay leaf and rosemary flavors, with tense tannins holding it together. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
abv: NA Price: \$60

**93 Comstock Wines 2019 Jemrose Syrah (Bennett Valley).** Tight and subdued in aroma, this wine reveals a lot more on the palate, gushing blackberries, wood char, black olives and black pepper on a polished but firmly tannic structure. Give it a couple of years and more aromatic complexity will reveal. Best from 2025. —J.G.  
abv: 14.6% Price: \$42

**93 Future Perfect 2022 Watch Hill Vineyard Syrah (Alisos Canyon).** Quite light in the glass, this Syrah starts juicy with strawberry, raspberry and cinnamon aromas on the fresh and fun nose. White pepper enlivens the pomegranate snap

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of the palate, where young, persistent tannins hold their form into the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$70

**93 Glunz 2020 White Hawk Vineyard Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** Dense aromas of tar, iodine, charred seaweed and roasted coffee make for a very savory, compelling nose on this bottling. That coffee note returns for the sip, where cracked pepper and kelp flavors enliven the plum fruits. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**93 Jaffurs 2020 Bien Nacido Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** Intense aromas of dried blueberry, dark violet and a slightly reductive tar component show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is dense and structured to last, showing dark fruit, dark chocolate and the slightest hint of purple flower. These elements have a long way to go. Drink now–2038. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**93 Jaffurs 2020 Lerner Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Direct and clean aromas of boysenberry and lilac are seamlessly integrated on the nose of this bottling from one of the prime properties in this small appellation. The palate is smoothly textured, floral and spicy, offering cracked pepper, lavender and blueberry sorbet flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**93 Margerum 2022 Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** This is a very juicy, joyous and generous style of Syrah, offering ripe, but not overly extracted blackberry, cassis and blueberry ice cream flavors. The palate is equally fun and flavorful, adding black cherry and root beer float flavors, while retaining the tension and acidity to keep it professional. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**93 Refugio Ranch 2020 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** A wide array of herbs, purple flowers, seared meat and pristine blue fruits lure the nose deep into this bottling. The palate is very dry, yet redolent with purple fruits and flowers, as chiseled tannins lead into a star anise-, clove-kissed finish. Drink 2025–2039. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

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

**93 Stolpman 2022 Estate Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Savory aromas of grilled beef are soaked in soy, stewed plum and elderberry jam on the rugged nose of this bottling. The palate amplifies that peppery spice and smoked-meat quality, with dark purple berries smoothing out the finish. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$36

**93 Sunstone 2021 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Elegant layers of fruit and flowers pick up chai spice on the nose of this bottling from their 2.3-acre estate Syrah planting, which was then treated to 30% new French oak. The freshness

persists on the palate, where fresh berry and red-flowers aromas are quite refreshing. —M.K.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$70

**92 Cedarville 2019 Estate Bottled Syrah (El Dorado).** This generously full-bodied Syrah from El Dorado County incorporates 4% Viognier in a nod to the Northern Rhône style. And the results do not disappoint. Aromatically perfumed with black cherry, plum and currant, star anise, clove, black pepper, the palate offers firm, structural tannins and a medium-to-full body rich with concentrated fruits, elegantly spiced with oak—all leading toward an appetizingly long finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$36

**92 Chanin 2021 Durell Vineyard Syrah (Sonoma Coast).** This Santa Barbara-based brand headed north to snag this cool-climate fruit, which shows tar, clove, nutmeg and baked plum on the nose. The palate is savory with roasted meat and dark berry flavors, all wrapped in hefty tannins that will soften with time. Drink now–2041. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**92 Falkner 2021 Vintner's Reserve Syrah (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 16.

**abv:** 16.2% **Price:** \$100

**92 Grey Wolf Cellars 2021 Predator Syrah (Paso Robles).** Elderberry-jam aromas are spiced by black pepper and violet on the intense while elegant nose of this bottling, which includes 5% Viognier. The palate amplifies the purple-flower flavors with creamy lilac and more violet, as elderflower adds more nuances and the core of berry keeps it quite pleasurable. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$55

**92 Hungry Hawk 2020 Syrah (San Diego County).** This is one of the better San Diego County red wines in recent memory. Aromas of fruit roasted over a smoky fire meet with peppercorn and herb-laced meats on the nose. The palate is tensely textured and loaded with tobacco, olive and tart elderberry flavors. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**92 Mesa Del Sol 2019 Syrah (Arroyo Seco).** Dark plum, peppery spice and purple-flower aromas make for a straightforward take on Syrah. The palate is tense in tannins and intense in purple fruit and flower flavors, with dank herb, cracked pepper and wood-smoke elements completing the scene. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$34

**92 Rusack 2019 Estate Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Dark in the glass, this bottling, which includes 5% Petite Sirah, shows aromas of intense blackberry, toasted herbs and warm spice cake on the nose. The palate combines the classic hallmarks of oak-aged Syrah: bacon fat, cracked pepper, toasty spice and baked berries. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$36

**92 Samuel Louis Smith 2022 Nelson Vineyard Sans Soufre Syrah (Santa Cruz Mountains).**

Sam Smith goes the no-sulfur route in this bottling, and his winemaking is so meticulous and clean that these Syrahs should stay consistent. Though still quite young, the nose already shows fresh blueberry and lilac aromas. The palate is very taut, pairing flavors of fresh and tart berry with hints of pepper and violet. This will be exciting to track. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$47

**91 Chris Caruso 2021 Kimsey Vineyard Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** A lighter hue in the glass, this energetic Syrah is still a touch on the young side, offering black raspberry, dark pomegranate and rose petal on the refreshing nose. The palate is lively and vivid, offering crisp plum and pomegranate on the tightly wound palate, flavors that are likely to grow more complex with patience. —M.K.

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

**91 CRU 2020 Rancho Real Vineyard Syrah (Santa Maria Valley).** For full review see page 20.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$50

**91 Hartford Court 2018 Outer Limits Syrah (Sonoma Coast).** Very ripe, dried fruit and smoked beef aromas lead to rich blackberry jam flavors in this full-bodied, big and rounded wine. Its powerful mouthfeel and broad tannins give a heavy, warm presence to the palate. —J.G.

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

**91 Rusack 2018 Estate Reserve Syrah (Ballard Canyon).** Dark and rich aromas of coffee bean, licorice, baked berry and oak spice show on the nose of this bottling, which has been aging in bottle since March 2020. The result on the well-integrated palate are warm flavors of baking spice, vanilla and oak, with a firm tannic finish that upholds the remaining fruit tones. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$48

**91 Sean W. McBride 2021 Rowan Vineyard Syrah (Petaluma Gap).** Dense, lush and mouthfilling, this medium-bodied and moderately tannic wine is generous in red and black fruits, soothing in texture and approachable for drinking soon. Delicious raspberry, blackberry and cedar notes stand out. —J.G.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**91 The Farm Winery 2019 The Red Zone Syrah (Adelaida District).** Blackberry, soil and tar aromas show on the nose of this bottling. The savory style comes through on the palate, where charred meat and light teriyaki flavors meld with delicate lilac and berry jam flavors. —M.K.

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

**91 Tierra y Vino 2020 Syrah (Santa Ynez Valley).** This savory Syrah offers asphalt, leather, soy-soaked mushroom and elderberry paste on the complex nose. The palate is deftly integrated, combining

baked and dried fruit with caramelized oak, cola and Oreo cookie-crust flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$52

**90 Absolution 2020 Hermitage Clone Michaud Vineyard Syrah (Chalone).** Dense and dark in the glass, this is an intense and hearty style of Syrah, offering cassis, roasted berry and caramelized oak aromas on the nose. The palate is layered in those roasted-berry and dried-fig flavors, with clove and allspice adding depth to the firmly tannic frame. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$59

**90 MacLaren 2019 Greywacke Vineyard Syrah (Russian River Valley).** Toasty, flinty aromas waft from the glass, then rather lean, bright and also charred flavors of black cherries and black pepper are prominent. This medium-bodied and moderately tannic wine is agreeable, yet packs a punch in terms of texture. —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$54

**90 Sunstone 2020 Syrah (Santa Barbara County).** Roasted meat and peppery spices add a savory edge to the stewed red-fruit aromas on the nose of this bottling. There's a meaty tone to the palate as well, with flavors of goji berry and baking spices rounding out the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$45

**89 Dovecote 2020 Noumenon Thompson Vineyard Syrah (Alisos Canyon).** Deep and intense aromas of boysenberry, blueberry and violet are fairly extracted on the nose of this bottling. Elderberry and elderflower flavors come through on the palate, which is a tad tart. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$100

**88 Monte De Oro 2019 Estate Syrah (Temecula Valley).** Anise-seed aromas are prominent on the nose of this bottling, from fennel frond to licorice candy, and there is baked berry as well. The licorice tone is integrated into blackberry-sauce flavors on the palate, which includes 12% Petite Sirah. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$48

**86 Tehachapi 2020 Estate Syrah (Tehachapi Mountains).** Aromas of crushed grapeseed, tart plum and grape jam show on the nose of this bottling. The palate offers hints of more grape and raisin atop a soft texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$39

## MOURVÈDRE

**93 Birichino 2022 Enz Vineyard Mourvèdre (Lime Kiln Valley).** Quite light in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with fresh berry aromas that are leveled by a crushed-rock earthiness. Black raspberry and rose-petal flavors converge on the lively palate, which also offers a crushed-rock touch. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$42

**93 Tablas Creek 2021 Mourvèdre (Adelaida District).** Retaining freshness in Mourvèdre is a challenge, but this bottling does it expertly. Aromas of cranberry, cracked pepper and dank herb lead from the nose into a palate of crisp pomegranate and more peppery spices, floating atop a sharp acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$55

**93 Tower 15 2022 Enz Vineyard Mourvèdre (Lime Kiln Valley).** Deep, fresh and intense aromas of boysenberry, black plum, blueberry and lavender make for a lively zippy, refreshing nose on this bottling, which comes from ancient vines. Somehow those old vines make a youthful expression on the palate too, where crunchy berry flavors snap with acidity, as fennel pollen adds an herbal edge. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$65

**92 RZN 2022 The Mour Issue Mourvèdre (Santa Barbara County).** Very light in the glass, this is a fresh take on Mourvèdre, showing crisp pomegranate, white peppercorn, blood-orange rind and wet riverbed aromas on the nose. The palate presents more of the grape's earthy soul before settling on tart cranberry and citrus-peel flavors that could be mistaken for Pinot Noir. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 McKahn Family Cellars 2021 Mourvèdre (Sonoma Valley).** A smoky, meaty note in the aroma is followed by dense, beefy, chocolate and cooked cherry flavors and a good, tannic texture to give them power. The wine feels broad, tastes ripe and distinctive. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Wilson Creek 2021 Reserve Mourvèdre (Temecula Valley).** Leathery aromas of cocoa, cola and fig show on the nose of this bottling. Mourvèdre can do well in Temecula, offering rich raisin and fresher berry flavors, finishing with a touch of sweetness. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

## BARBERA

**93 Portalupi 2021 Shake Ridge Ranch Barbera (Amador County).** Ruby-jewel red in the glass, this varietal Barbera from Amador emits immediate aromatics of red and black cherry, plum, Mission fig, fennel, cacao, roasted coffee bean, walnut skin. The palate is rich, concentrated, driven by a generous dose of acidity while firm, structural tannins coat the cheeks. Medium to full body in weight, find additional notes of anise, black pepper, tobacco, prune and fruit leather. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**90 Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Barbera (Temecula Valley).** Dark red-fruit aromas meet with tar, leather and pepper on the nose of this bottling. Soy, pepper and berry flavors combine

for a savory palate, with a touch of anise popping on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 16.2% **Price:** \$52

**88 Peltzer Family 2018 Barbera (Temecula Valley).** Stewed-fruit aromas approach caramelization on the nose of this rich bottling, which benefits from an allspice kick. The palate's baked fruit flavors are quite bold, but a persistent acidity and decent tension maintains a sense of balance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$52

## NEBBIOLO

**93 Giornata 2020 Luna Matta Vineyard Nebbiolo (Paso Robles).** Easy-going aromas of red plum, rose petal, cinnamon and mace draw the nose into this single-vineyard expression. The palate is still quite young and built to last, offering dried cherry, sandalwood and subtle nut flavors. Drink now–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Regan Vineyards Winery 2021 The Great Fog Nebbiolo (Santa Cruz Mountains).** Since it contains a bit of Cabernet Sauvignon, vintner John Bargetto is calling this a "Power Piedmonte," and the first vintage shows much promise. Hints of black cherry and charcoal converge on the nose, while the palate is wrapped in tight tannins that offer cherry and tar flavors as well as a vanilla-kissed finish. Expect more magic with patience. Drink 2025–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**90 Field Recordings 2021 Alta Gaviota Nebbiolo (Happy Canyon of Santa Barbara).** Transparent in the glass, this is a slightly wacky Nebbiolo, perhaps deserving of more bottle age to show its true self. For now, the nose pops with rose and pomegranate aromas, while the palate's zippy acidity offers balsamic strawberry, cracked pepper and sour gummy-candy flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$49

## SANGIOVESE

**93 Stolpman 2022 Love You Bunches Sangiovese (Santa Barbara County).** Stolpman fired up California's chilled red scene, and this vintage brings complexity to the fun bag. Vibrant aromas of pomegranate and rose extract lead into a zesty palate that dances across the tongue with energetic glee, carrying flavors of geranium, plum and peppercorn. There are even tannins on the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$24

**93 Stolpman 2021 Sangiovese (Ballard Canyon).** Bright and juicy red-cherry compote aromas are dusted in mace and crushed-stone accents on the nose of this bottling. A similar effect occurs on the palate, where jubilant cherry flavors



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are balanced by a tense, stony minerality. Drink now–2037. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$36

**92** **Giornata 2021 Sangiovese (Paso Robles)**. Ripe, extracted cherry aromas meet with nutmeg, caramel and chaparral on the nose of this bottling. There is great tension to the palate, framing the bright cherry, white pepper and leather flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$40

**92** **Union Sacre 2022 Carbonic Sangio Sangiovese (Paso Robles)**. Very light and transparent in the glass, this bottling pops on the nose with spicy strawberry aromas, where white pepper gives a complexity to the punchy fruit. The palate is fun, delicious and yet interesting, combining a bubblegum and soda pop-like experience with light tannins, zippy acidity and a peppery edge. —M.K.  
abv: 12% Price: \$25

**91** **Mesa Del Sol 2019 Sangiovese (Arroyo Seco)**. A light hue in the glass, this bottling hits the nose with crushed rock and bright cherry aromas. The palate combines sharp red plum and strawberry with hints of leather, toast and cracked-pepper flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 13.2% Price: \$32

**91** **Peltzer Family 2019 Sangiovese (Temecula Valley)**. Clean aromas of cherry, red spices and toasted wood are seamlessly integrated on the nose of this bottling. Chalky tannins frame the bold sip, where powerful red-fruit flavors are spiced by toasty oak, caramel and vanilla elements. —M.K.  
abv: 13.7% Price: \$48

**90** **Vienza at Europa Village NV Sangiovese (Temecula Valley)**. Aromas of tar, wood and charred strawberry show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is dense with cherry-compote aromas that are juicy and balanced by thyme and more savory charred elements. —M.K.  
abv: 15% Price: \$49

**88** **Bella Luna 2019 Maloney Vineyard Sangiovese (Templeton Gap District)**. Sour-cherry pie aromas are dusted in oregano and marjoram on the nose of this bottling of the Pepe clone, which was aged for 28 long months in oak. The palate's broad cherry and herb flavors are overtaken by the oaky caramel elements. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$48

**92** **Portalupi 2021 Mantagrano Vineyard Sangiovese Grosso (El Dorado)**. This expressive Sangiovese leads with pronounced aromas of chocolate, clove, cinnamon, wild strawberry, red plum compote, fresh basil and red roses. The medium-bodied palate offers crunchy tannins, modest acidity and layers even more flavors of potpourri, white pepper and sweet tobacco walking a balanced line between floral and fruity amazingness. It's a diverse wine that pairs with casual fare just as easily as date-night cuisine. *Editors' Choice*. —S.B.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$40

## TEMPRANILLO

**92** **Marimar 2019 Don Miguel Vineyard Estate Tempranillo (Russian River Valley)**. This wine is rich and velvety in fine-grained tannins wrapped around blueberries, dark cherries and tobacco. It's a savory-scented, firm-feeling wine that will only get better with time. Best from 2026–2033. —J.G.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$64

**91** **Absolution 2020 Pierce Ranch Tempranillo (San Antonio Valley)**. A lighter shade in the glass, this is a friendly style of Tempranillo, starting with approachable aromas of cherry and brown spice. The palate shows a decent tension, as crushed berry, cracked pepper and toasted-herb flavors align. —M.K.  
abv: 13.8% Price: \$44

**91** **Hungry Hawk 2020 Estate Reserva Tempranillo (San Diego County)**. Intense aromas of blackberry, purple flowers and smoked meats draw the nose into this bottling, which shows how well Tempranillo can work in the San Diego environment. Black plum, açai and dried-meat flavors align on the palate. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$60

**91** **Optio 2021 Estate Tempranillo (Paso Robles Geneseo District)**. This is a very ripe and very dense bottling, but it stays in relative balance. Aromas of cassis, black cherry and seasoned meats lead from the nose into a palate loaded with violet, rich currant and milk-chocolate flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$60

## MERLOT

**93** **Daou 2021 Sequentis Reserve Merlot (Paso Robles)**. The Daou hallmark of toasted pecan and walnut aromas show on the nose of this Merlot, which also offers ripe berry and toasted herb touches. The palate carries the savory, nutty tone as well, with dark cherry providing fruit and firm tannins holding strong. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection*. —M.K.  
abv: 14.7% Price: \$52

**93** **McGrail 2018 Picazo Vineyard Merlot (Livermore Valley)**. This is a beautifully balanced and downright delicious Merlot coming out of Livermore Valley. Initial aromas are of blackberry, boysenberry, fennel, cacao, violet. The palate is driven by a generous, sleek acidity, cushioned by a soft, plush tannic texture and offering additional flavors of black pepper, baking spice and toasted wood. Enjoyable now, this wine has excellent aging potential, through at least 2028. —S.B.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$48

**91** **Chloe 2021 Merlot (San Lucas)**. This is a very compelling Merlot at a fair price. Aromas of turned earth and black cherry are spiced in cocoa and light mint on the nose. The palate is cleanly

presented and firm in texture, showing boysenberry, pepper and toasted pecan on the finish. *Best Buy*. —M.K.  
abv: 14% Price: \$18

**91** **Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Merlot (Paso Robles)**. Subtle aromas of red cherry, toast and crushed rocks come together on the nose of this bottling. The palate is earthy with rock and soil elements, as fresh strawberry, minty herb and baking spice flavors complete the experience. —M.K.  
abv: 13.9% Price: \$26

**91** **Ferrari-Carano 2021 Merlot (Sonoma County)**. For full review see page 20.  
abv: 14.8% Price: \$30

**90** **Ancient Peaks 2021 Merlot (Santa Margarita Ranch)**. Lively lavender aromas elevate the dark berry and thyme scents on the nose of this bottling. The core of blueberry fruit on the palate is cut by oregano, marjoram and cracked-pepper flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 14.3% Price: \$22

**89** **Donati Family Vineyard 2020 Family Reserve Merlot (Paso Robles Estrella District)**. Toasted herb, light earth, warm wood and dark berry aromas meet with a leathery kick on the nose of this bottling. The herbs and wood-spice flavors work well together on the palate, where tart boysenberry and plum-skin elements also arise. —M.K.  
abv: 14.1% Price: \$54

**89** **Francis Coppola 2021 Diamond Collection Merlot (California)**. For full review see page 27. *Best Buy*.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$16

**89** **San Simeon 2021 Merlot (Paso Robles)**. Dark berry, intense caramel and extracted coffee aromas show on the nose of this bottling. There's a firm tannic frame to the palate, where dense, dark and quite-ripe flavors of blackberry sauce, fudge and espresso bean align. —M.K.  
abv: 14.5% Price: \$30

**89** **Tessier Winery 2021 Green Earth Zayante Vineyard Merlot (Santa Cruz Mountains)**. Pleasantly juicy red-fruit aromas meet with anise and smoked wood on the nose of this bottling. The palate shows a more tart and sour side, as red fruit skins meet with light herbal elements. —M.K.  
abv: 13.5% Price: \$45

**88** **Hawk Watch Winery 2020 Solo Barrieco Merlot (South Coast)**. Tart and wild red-fruit aromas meet with herb and charcoal touches on the nose of this bottling. The palate packs in bay leaf and incense with underripe red-fruit flavors. —M.K.  
abv: 15.2% Price: \$58

**88** **Josh Cellars 2021 Merlot (California)**. This is a simple—and simply enjoyable—Mer-

lot with notes of red and black cherry and plum, toasted wood, licorice and vanilla. **Best Buy.** —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Monte De Oro 2019 Estate Merlot (Temecula Valley).** Baked-cherry aromas meet with dark wood, loamy soil and toasted-herb scents on the nose of this bottling, which include 5% Petite Sirah. The palate hits with strong oregano, bay leaf and leather flavors, with dried berry providing the fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$38

**87 Clos LaChance 2021 Estate Vineyards Merlot (Santa Clara Valley).** Very extracted aromas of dark berry are spiced with toasted herb on the nose of this bottling. The palate's dried-cherry core is soaked in caramel and vanilla flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$17

**87 Noble Vines 2021 181 Merlot (Lodi).** For full review see page 27. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**85 Bota Box NV Merlot (California).** This boxed wine has a good integration between fresh red and black fruits that are carried by a soft tannic texture and modest acidity. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23/3L

**85 Tehachapi 2020 Estate Merlot (Tehachapi Mountains).** Very extracted aromas of ripe fruit meet with powerful oak and burned caramel on the nose of this bottling. Baked red fruit and caramelized coffee flavors show on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$39

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## PETITE SIRAH

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**95 Refugio Ranch 2020 Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Petite Sirah is uncommon in Santa Barbara County, but this bottling makes a strong argument for more, at least when handled by experts. Intense aromas of cassis, lilac and mint convey darkness without being overly ripe. The palate shows deftly managed tannins that frame blueberry, mint and cocoa-dust flavors. It's amazingly elegant for a typically brash grape. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**94 Jaffurs 2021 Thompson Vineyard Petite Sirah (Alisos Canyon).** Petite Sirah remains an uncommon variety in Santa Barbara County, but this vineyard's fruit constantly makes us question why. This Jaffurs spin on the grape begins with dark cacao bean and charcoal aromas that are wrapped in lush cassis and elderflower tones. The palate is intense with purple fruit and flower, but in a measured way, set atop creamy tannins. Powerful but silky. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$55

**94 ONX 2019 Black Orchid Petite Sirah (Templeton Gap District).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$54

**93 Dovecote 2019 Thompson Vineyard Petite Sirah (Alisos Canyon).** This is a bold argument for the viability of Petite Sirah in this relatively cool appellation. Extremely dark and intense aromas of cassis, elderberry and burnt roast beef ends entertain the nose. The palate is framed by creamy yet edgy tannins, showing unctuous, dense flavors of cassis and elderflower. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

**93 Tierra y Vino 2020 Ibarra La Presa Vineyard Petite Sirah (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dark aromas of elderberry, black tea, espresso and charred soy make for an attention-grabbing nose on this bottling, one of the few Petite Sirahs from Santa Barbara. Toasty herb flavors of fennel frond meet with coffee bean, toasted walnut, blackberry paste and chaparral on the palate, which finishes with a warm pie-crust kick. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$60

**91 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2019 Johnson Family Vineyard Reserve Petite Sirah (Temecula Valley).** This is a naturally intense bottling from a region where depth often comes from oak rather than the vineyard. Dark berry, charcoal and dank herb aromas lead from the nose into a palate wrapped in chalky tannins and loaded with peppercorn, bay leaf and dark-fruit flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$81

**91 Hawk and Horse Vineyards 2020 Petite Sirah (Red Hills).** You know a high-quality wine when you taste and you'll taste it here with Hawk and Horse's Petite Sirah from Lake County's nestled Red Hills AVA. Enjoy notes of damp, dewy roses and violets, bramble, fresh-turned earth and crunchy green forest leaves, chalk, black currant and cherry, plum skins, black pepper, cacao and leather. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$65

**91 Peachy Canyon 2021 Petite Sirah (Adelaida District).** Dense aromas of violet, lilac and açai draw the nose into this bottling. The palate continues the floral line with lavender accents, while picking up pinches of oregano and marjoram, as the tannins stay sticky into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**91 Puccioni 2021 Puccioni Ranch Petite Sirah (Dry Creek Valley).** Dense with tannins, packed with blueberries and boysenberries, this wine is big, broad and bold, something to decant and drink now with a rich dish or save for later mellowing. Best from 2026–2036. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$38

**90 Cedarville 2019 Naylor Vineyard Petite Sirah (El Dorado).** A little shy on the nose, the palate of this varietal Petite Sirah opens up quite well with notes of black pepper, black cherry, plum,

toasted wood, charred meat umami set against mouth-coating tannins, modest acidity and leading toward a solid finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$36

**90 Peachy Canyon 2021 Petite Sirah (Paso Robles).** Dark red fruit, rose petal and garden herb aromas make for a rather delicate take on this usually bold grape. There's a core of baked strawberry to the palate, where minty spices make for a pleasant sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$24

**90 Tower 15 2021 Defiance Vineyard Petite Sirah (Creston District).** There's a lot of density to this bottling, starting with aromas of cassis, charcoal and crushed lava rock on the nose. The palate is packed with charred black plum and boysenberry flavors, with violet, lilac and oregano adding depth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

**89 Hungry Hawk 2020 Petite Sirah (San Diego County).** Intense aromas of black currant, violet and mulling spice show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is quite laden in herbs for a usually fruity grape, offering fennel, oregano and marjoram flavors atop a medium body. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**89 Sunstone 2021 Petite Sirah (Santa Barbara County).** This is a lively and thinner style of Petite Sirah, starting with candied aromas of strawberry and cinnamon on the nose. The palate picks up toasted nut and warm spice elements that balance the dark strawberry and black raspberry flavors with a bit of white pepper on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$45

**88 Optio 2021 LaMar Vineyard Petite Sirah (Paso Robles Geneseo District).** Very dark in the glass, this bottling is quite extracted and ripe on the caramelized nose. The palate is thick in mouth-feel and chewy with tannins, offering more caramel and vanilla flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**92 Stolpman 2021 Hair of the Bear Petite Sirah-Roussanne (Ballard Canyon).** Savory aromas of charred meat, toasted wood and light fennel lead into a dark cassis element on the nose of this Petite Sirah, which includes 25% Roussanne. The palate is layered in chaparral flavors as well as cracked pepper, giving the dark-fruit core plenty of edge. Expect these elements to grow more harmonious in time. Drink 2025–2035. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

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## PETIT VERDOT

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**91 Lepe 2021 Merit Vineyards Petit Verdot (San Antonio Valley).** Really intense aromas of dark fruit are powerful, but not overbearing on the juicy and fresh nose of this bottling. Firm tannins

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uphold the fruity flavors of grape and açai, and that texture lingers long into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$49

**90 McIntyre Family Wines 2019 Kimberly Vineyard Petit Verdot (Arroyo Seco).** Intense aromas of blackberry sorbet and black-raspberry juice are cut by cedar shavings on the nose of this bottling. The wood spice is prominent on the palate, where fine tannins and a decent acidity surround the core of purple fruit. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$34

**87 NSO By Dusty Nabor 2021 Petit Verdot (Los Olivos District).** Tart aromas of blackberry and plum skin show on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also tart with underripe berry flavors, while violet and lilac elements warm up the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

## ZINFANDEL

**96 Robert Biale 2021 Monte Rosso Vineyard Zinfandel (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** For full review see page 4. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$85

**95 Hartford 2021 Hartford Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** Take a deep dive into the jammy, ripe depths of Zinfandel as you sniff the ultraripe blackberries and sip the plump red raspberries in this full-bodied, mouth-coating wine. Moderate tannins, intense fruit flavor and a broad but vibrant texture make it memorable. *Editors' Choice.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$65

**94 Hartford 2021 Jolene's Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** A strong cedar and rosemary aroma gets you prepped for the concentrated, brilliant, dried cherry and fresh raspberry flavors that follow. This high-octane wine comes from 100-year-old vines. It is lively, flavor-packed and practically vibrating with vibrant oak and skin tannins. —J.G.  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$65

**94 Hartford 2021 Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** Forget the heavy, chocolatey Zins you may have drunk before, this one is all freshness and lift without sacrificing the fabulous wild blackberries, sage and raspberries for which California's heritage grape is famous. While full bodied, it feels vibrant, well balanced and ready to pair with most any meat or poultry entree. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$42

**94 Robert Biale 2021 Bedrock Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 8.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$60

**93 Ancient Peaks 2021 Zinfandel (Santa Margarita Ranch).** For full review see page 10. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$22

**93 Birchino 2022 Gimelli Vineyard Old Vines Zinfandel (Cienega Valley).** This is a big fruit bomb of a Zinfandel from very old vines, offering intense strawberry-boysenberry syrup aromas alongside a touch of red flowers. The palate balances the boisterous red-fruit flavors with a fresh acidity, a crushed-rock minerality and a dusting of fennel pollen. Altogether, it uses old vines to showcase young flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$30

**93 Hartford 2021 Highwire Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** High-toned raspberry and fresh herb aromas give way to ripe but snappy red and black fruits in this well-balanced, full-bodied wine. Using grapes grown on head-trained vines, the wine was aged in French oak, with 64% being new barrels. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.6% **Price:** \$65

**93 Robert Biale 2021 Pagani Ranch Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**92 Flambeaux 2020 Flambeaux Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Rich, dark-plum and boysenberry aromas lead to even richer, ripe black fruits on the palate, where mild tannins and a very full body lend a jammy, soft impression despite rather high alcohol. This is a big, bold soft red to enjoy with big proteins or Parmigiana-Reggiano cheese. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$50

**92 Hartford 2021 Dina's Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Russian River Valley).** Subtle vanilla, cedar and toast aromas lead to hearty, ripe and delicious berry flavors in this full-bodied, moderately tannic wine. Blackberries, raspberries and oak spices meld on the palate for a satisfying feast of fruits. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$65

**92 Head High 2022 Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** Raspberries, boysenberries and black currants fill the aroma of this super-concentrated wine before flooding the palate with a generous, saturated fruitiness. So ripe that it seems sweet, this gorgeous wine can be sipped on a chilly afternoon, or like a Port, after a meal. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Mesa Del Sol 2021 Zinfandel (Arroyo Seco).** This crisp style of Zinfandel is an antidote to the overly ripe style that's dominant. Aromas of crisp pomegranate and carnation on the nose lead into a tightly wound palate where strawberry and sandalwood stay fresh and spicy. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$33

**92 Peachy Canyon 2021 Bailey Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Crisp red plum and dark strawberry aromas are lifted by minty chaparral scents on the nose of this bottling. The palate is clean and direct, offering bright and fresh flavors of

strawberry and watermelon, with ample spice adding to the easy-going style. —M.K.  
**abv:** 16% **Price:** \$50

**92 Puccioni 2021 Puccioni Ranch Old Vine Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Aromas of rose petals, toasted oak, rosemary and grilled beef lead to grilled-plum and cooked-cherry flavors in this full-bodied wine. Significant tannins and a full body give it a big, warm impression in the texture. Blended with 15% Petite Sirah. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$38

**92 Ridge 2021 Benito Dusi Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** This is a hedonistic style of Zin, starting with oak-soaked aromas of creamy black cherry, clove and vanilla on the nose. Roasted and stewed-fruit flavors are surrounded by wood spice on the ripe palate. This would make an excellent barbecue wine. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 Absolution 2021 Johnson Family Vineyard Zinfandel (San Antonio Valley).** From an estate in southern Monterey comes this refreshingly restrained style of Zinfandel. Aromas of cinnamon, fresh red fruit and clean, earthy herbs show on the nose. The palate stays light on its feet, offering snappy raspberry, baking spice and crushed-stone flavors. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Barra of Mendocino 2020 Reserve Zinfandel (Mendocino).** If it's possible for a full-bodied red to be light on its feet, Barra has figured it out with its Reserve Zinfandel. It's all about the bright tones of red and black plum lifted by the rose and violet aromatics and complemented by a wet-stone-meets-graphite earthiness. Enjoy this wine now for its youthful vibrancy. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$26

**91 Murphy-Goode 2020 Liar's Dice Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** Rich but dry, this robust take on Zinfandel wraps good tannins around ample blackberry and raspberry flavors, while light smoke and black-pepper accents dance around the edges. Pair with a grilled ribeye or roasted bone-in pork chop. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$21

**91 Peachy Canyon 2021 Old Schoolhouse Zinfandel (Templeton Gap District).** Berry compote and wood-spice aromas work hand-in-hand on the nose of this bottling. The palate is framed by firm tannins that balance the joyous flavors of baked fruit and baking spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**91 Peachy Canyon 2021 Westside Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Juicy and clean aromas of cherry, red flower and wet rocks engage the nose on this bottling. The palate's strawberry-sauce core is lifted by crushed rocks and thyme, making for a fruity, yet layered sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$24



**91 Truett Hurst 2021 Single Vineyard Collection Estate Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Effusive strawberry-jam aromas and raspberry-blackberry flavors give this wine a classic Zin jammy quality and an undeniably satisfying richness. Low tannins and high alcohol add to its mouth-filling expression, pouring blackberry pie and strawberry syrup notes on the palate. —J.G.  
**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$69

**90 Alexander Valley Vineyards 2019 Sin Zin Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$24

**90 Klinker Brick 2021 Marisa Vineyard Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 23.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$28

**90 Klinker Brick 2020 Old Vine Zinfandel (Lodi).** For full review see page 23.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$22

**90 Mesa Del Sol 2019 Zinfandel (Arroyo Seco).** Juicy boysenberry syrup aromas meet with black cherry cordial on the thick nose of this bottling. The palate is both creamy and tannic, showing ripe, dark fruit and black-pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$34

**90 Peachy Canyon 2021 Especial Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Lively and fresh aromas of tart red fruit, baking spice and toasted herb show on the nose of this bottling. The palate holds a similar line, combining ample red fruit, wood smoke and baking spice, but with a bit more tang. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$46

**90 Peachy Canyon 2021 Nancy's View Zinfandel (Adelaida District).** Rich aromas of cassis, pie crust, vanilla and spicecake soaked in plum sauce make for a rich nose on this bottling. The bold palate shows oak spices and ripe strawberry-sauce flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$46

**89 Opaque 2020 Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** Unc-tuous aromas of black cherry, cinnamon, clove and oak smoke converge on the bold nose of this bottling. The palate is thick and ripe, showing baked fruit, star anise, clove and vanilla atop a fudge-like core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$40

**88 Paso Ranches 2020 Bourbon Barrel-Aged Zinfandel (Paso Robles).** The bourbon-barrel aging imparted a surprising floral kick to the nose of this bottling, which offers strawberry, vanilla ice cream and rose-water sorbet aromas. The palate is loaded with the strawberry-sauce flavors, which approach a candy-like sweetness toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$20

**87 Frey 2021 Zinfandel (Mendocino).** A simple, cheerful, drink-me-now Zin with juicy notes

of black-cherry compote, black-plum pie filling and grape jelly, coated in chocolate and sprinkled with black pepper. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$20

**87 Girasole 2021 Zinfandel (Mendocino).** This is a simple, drink-me-now Zin with straightforward aromas and flavors of blackberry, blueberry, licorice, chocolate and vanilla. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

## OTHER RED WINES

**94 Blade & Talon 2022 Calleri Vineyard Négrette (San Benito).** Intense aromas of boysenberry, violet, cardamom and loamy soil show on the complex nose of this bottling of a rare grape that has a long history in this region. A soft, pillowy texture introduces the palate, where boysenberry, purple flower and black pepper spice align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$28

**94 MCV 2021 Tannat (Paso Robles).** Wine-maker Matt Villard's focus is Petite Sirah, but he's got Tannat figured out, too. This darkly hued bottling is lush on the nose with black cherry and coffee-cream aromas. The palate is loaded with açai and violet flavors atop a silky texture, with peaty bourbon and coffee notes coming through toward the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$52

**93 Caraccioli 2022 Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 11.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Popelouchum 2022 En Passerillage Cinsaut (San Benito).** This is one of the first releases from Randall Graham's experimental vineyard near San Juan Bautista and it's quite promising. Aromas of black raspberry, boysenberry and scarlet-red roses meet with wet soil and wild thyme on the nose. The palate offers lavender, violet and then tart black-plum flavors, with sticky tannins that hold firm through the finish. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$45

**93 Portalupi 2021 Shake Ridge Ranch Primitivo (Amador County).** This rich, concentrated Primitivo deserves at least 30 to 40 minutes to relax to truly enjoy the depth it has to offer. The palate is generous with mouth-coating tannins and layered flavors. Cedar leads with vanilla and baking spices in the mix; deep within find dark fruits—Mission fig, blackberry, black plum, bramble, dusty forest floor; a dusting of cacao, anise and a hint of leather round off the finish. Beautiful now, with time it'll become even more integrated, complex and interesting. *Cellar Selection.* —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$42

**92 Blade & Talon 2022 Calleri Vineyard Ruché (San Benito).** One of the first California bottlings of a variety originally from Piedmont, this bottling is light in color and hazy in the glass, offer-

ing lovely strawberry, bubblegum, pepper and sage aromas. It's bright and snappy on the palate, where fresh cranberry, pomegranate and clay flavors meet with an easy-going but taut texture. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$28

**92 RZN 2022 The Vaquero Issue Nolan Ranch Vineyard Mencía (Santa Barbara County).** Mencía is just starting to show up in Santa Barbara and winemakers are exploring its boundaries. This bottling, though lower in alcohol, pushes a rich vibe, beginning with aromas of elderberry, crushed asphalt, toasted walnut and crumpled lavender. There's a toasty ripeness of roasted blackberry and mocha on the palate, where oregano kicks in an herbal lift. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$35

**92 Thacher 2021 Hastings Ranch Vineyard Graciano (Adelaida District).** Vintners are still exploring this grape that accidentally was planted all over the place—and the expressions are encouraging. This bottling begins with aromas of blackberry and turned earth on the straightforward nose. The palate is medium bodied with plenty of accessible blackberry and grape flavors, as licorice adds the spicy nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$60

**92 Thacher 2021 Homestead Hill Vineyard Carignan (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** With ties to 19th-century viticultural history and an ability to thrive in changing climates, Carignan is a grape to watch across California. This bottling shows dark, plummy aromas with hints of anise. The palate lands with a smooth and dense mouthfeel, presenting black plum, thyme and toasted-sage flavors, reminiscent of chaparral. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$65

**92 Thacher 2021 Siletto Vineyard Cabernet Pfeffer (San Benito).** Bright and clean aromas of raspberry and red plum are nuanced by wet clay, light pepper and dried herb elements on the nose of this bottling. There's a clay-like grip to the palate, where a peppery spice decorates the red plum core. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$52

**91 Common Thread 2022 Pinot Meunier (Santa Maria Valley).** Rarely is this Champagne grape seen alone in a still red wine—and it's worth tracking down. Juicy aromas of strawberry, peppercorn and tarragon entertain the nose, while the palate's zippy acidity and taut texture frame flavors of red plum, currant and white pepper. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.7% **Price:** \$45

**91 Giornata 2021 French Camp Vineyard Aglianico (Paso Robles).** Intense blackberry, fresh cherry, spicy anise and savory charcoal aromas converge on the nose of this bottling of a grape better known in Italy's Campania region, but still uncommon in California. Crisp berry flavors are

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dusted in roasted fennel and more charred elements on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**91 Longoria 2021 Nolan Vineyard Mencía (Alisos Canyon).** Winemakers are fired up about the potential for Mencía and this first taste shows much promise. Dark in the glass, it begins with aromas of black plum, smashed mulberry and light seaweed. There's an oaky kick to the palate, where meaty flavors of leather, tar and teriyaki recall an intense cool-climate Syrah. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$48

**91 Samuel Louis Smith 2022 Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** Lovely aromas of strawberry sauce, blueberry and violet draw the nose into this densely layered bottling. It's not quite as exciting as the first Gamay vintage from this site, but the palate is still very enticing with zippy acidity that gives the sour-grape soda flavors a pep in their step. —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$37

**90 Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Reserve Montepulciano (Temecula Valley).** Baked strawberry and baking spice aromas meet with a crushed rock minerality on the nose of this bottling. The palate is subtle in expression, offering mellow red fruit, a pinch of herb and warm mulling spice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$81

**89 Birichino 2022 Little Big Block Vineyard Old Vines Carignane (Contra Costa County).** This is an overall well-balanced red. Initial aromas are of damp river rock, dewy rose petals, red plum, red cherry and boysenberry. The palate offers a friendly, sandy tannic texture and additional notes of strawberry preserve, black-pepper spice and grape jelly. Enjoy now. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**88 The Farm Winery 2019 Old Pro Malbec (Adelaida District).** Cigar box and sandalwood aromas float atop muddled cherry and strawberry on the nose of this bottling. The palate is also dominated by wood spice, with incense and tart plum flavors most prevalent. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$70

**87 Vienza at Europa Village 2020 Reserve Aglianico (Temecula Valley).** Snappy red-plum aromas meet with peppery spice on the sour-leaning nose of this bottling. The palate is loaded with tart fruit and strong anise flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$84

## RED BLENDS

**97 Acaibo 2017 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Sonoma County).** Very dry, very deep, very structured, this imposing wine is drenched in firm tannins that will need at least a decade to resolve for optimum drinking. Intense blackberries, blueberries and black figs have the power to outlast the

tannins. Made with 75% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc and 12% Merlot. Best from 2030–2040. *Cellar Selection.* —J.G.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$80

**96 Center of Effort 2021 Il Due Rhône-style Red Blend (Edna Valley).** For full review see page 3.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**95 Caelesta 2020 Apogee Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Very dark in the glass, this bold blend of 85% Cabernet Sauvignon and 15% Petite Sirah shows intense aromas of roasted fruit, singed wood, caramel-laced pastry and baking spice. The blackberry jam, violet, lavender and cracked-pepper flavors ride atop a lush, yet edgy texture that will stand the test of time. Drink now–2036. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$75

**95 Caelesta 2020 Parallax Rhône-style Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).** Baked boysenberry aromas are dusted in cedar shavings on the well-integrated nose of this blend of 42% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 18% Mourvèdre. There's a firm tension to the palate, giving an edge to the dark purple-flower and blueberry-cream flavors that ride those chalky tannins deep into the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$75

**95 Caraccioli 2022 Passetoutgrain Escolle Vineyard Gamay Noir-Pinot Noir (Santa Lucia Highlands).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$45

**95 Ty Caton 2021 Upper Bench - Block Three Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Moon Mountain District Sonoma County).** Concentrated but sleek, this well-balanced, deeply flavorful wine made from two thirds Merlot and one third Cabernet Sauvignon boasts dark chocolate, blueberries, black cherries and star anise notes on a softly tannic, silky texture. It is very polished, complex and pure tasting, promising years of enjoyment ahead. Best from 2027–2037. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$48

**94 Dovecote 2020 Mantle Thompson Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Alisos Canyon).** Jubilant aromas of boysenberry, red flower and peppery spice make for a very inviting nose on this proprietary Rhône blend. The palate is energetic in acidity that carries the strawberry and white pepper flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

**94 J. Lohr 2019 Cuvée Pau Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$50

**94 J. Lohr 2019 Cuvée Pom Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 7.  
**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$50

**94 Las Jaras 2021 Enz Vineyard Red Blend (Lime Kiln Valley).** From the brand made by wine-maker Joel Burt and comedian Eric Wareheim, this blend of 64% Mourvèdre, 27% Cabernet Pfeffer and 9% Zinfandel from the legacy Enz Vineyard is fascinating on all fronts. Aromas of dried strawberry, carnation, sage brush and dried mushroom lead into a palate awash in lively acidity. Flavors of boysenberry, cracked pepper and holy basil align on the sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Margerum 2022 M5 Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** There's a dark, intense, bold and, yet still elegant focus to this eight-vineyard blend of 39% Grenache, 32% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre, 7% Cinsault and 7% Counoise. Aromas of boysenberry, blueberry, violet and lilac on the nose lead into a silky purple-flower display on the palate, where generous berry flavors are framed by tense tannins. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$32

**94 ONX 2020 Praetorian Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).** For full review see page 8. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$58

**94 Refugio Ranch 2020 Escondrijo Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** There's an energetic brightness to the color of this wine, which offers lively aromas of black raspberry and vivid purple rose. The palate is both tense in structure and comforting in style, offering creamy strawberry and boysenberry flavors alongside star anise and mace elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**94 Rusack 2020 Anacapa Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Dense aromas of mulling spice, stewed blackberry and forest woods show on the nose of this blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon from Vogelzang Vineyard and 31% Merlot and 22% Petit Verdot from the Rusack estate. The palate is rich, clean and fresh, offering cracked pepper, black cherry and cola-spice flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$125

**94 Sixmilebridge 2020 Shannon Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** This is one of the hot new Paso Robles brands to watch and the wines really start to soar in 2020 vintage. This blend of 52% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 10% Malbec, 9% Petit Verdot and 6% Cabernet Franc starts with intense, yet fresh blueberry and violet aromas. Firm tannins frame the sip, where the blue fruit-purple flower combo is enhanced by white-pepper spice that extends across the entire palate. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$85

**94 Stolpman 2021 La Croce Red Blend (Ballard Canyon).** This always eye-opening blend of equal parts Syrah and Sangiovese really hit its stride this vintage, showing cohesive aromas of black cherry, cola, espresso and cocoa on the nose.

The tightly wound palate is brimming with bright acidity that enlivens the strawberry, cherry and cracked-pepper flavors. Drink now–2039. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$72

**94 The Farm Winery 2019 Primal Scream Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Rich aromas of roasted fruit, toasted pecan, smoked meat and purple flower show on the nose of this blend of 68% Syrah and 32% Grenache. There's an herbal influence to the palate, where baked red fruit, dried fig, smoked meat and toasty wood-spice flavors align. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$65

**93 Absolution 2021 Consonance Johnson Family Vineyard Red Blend (San Antonio Valley).** Should the Zinfandel-Cab blend be known as a “Super-Cali”? This blend of 55% Zinfandel and 47% Cabernet Sauvignon makes a strong case for the category, starting with likable red cherry, wet earth and light-spice aromas. The palate combines flavors of ripe black cherry and violet with dark chocolate and grippy tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$45

**93 Calluna 2019 C.V.C Cuvée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Chalk Hill).** Generous, complex and nicely spiced with oak, this rich wine is blended from 45% Merlot and the four other Bordeaux varieties. It opens with black currants, cinnamon and cloves in the nose and deep blueberry and black-cherry flavors shaded by cedar and toast. Decant if drinking soon. Best from 2025–2032. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$38

**93 Daou 2021 Bodyguard Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Very dark in the glass, this bold blend offers aromas of charred walnut, espresso bean, cassis and fudge on the nose. There is a firm grip to the quite-savory palate, where prominent wood-spice aromas meet with more coffee, as well as charred plum and cassis flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50

**93 Dovecote 2020 Redtail Thompson Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Alisos Canyon).** Raspberry, strawberry and cinnamon stick aromas converge on the nose of this estate blend. The palate is medium bodied, offering juicy strawberry, cracked pepper and light oregano flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$65

**93 Field Recordings 2022 So Far Out All The Rage Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Lovely and fresh aromas of boysenberry, dark strawberry and generous lilac show on the nose of this blend of 68% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Merlot, 6% Syrah and 6% Marselan. The palate is energized with lingering acidity, carrying flavors of peppercorn, toasted sage and fresh berries. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$25

**93 Field Recordings 2021 Koligian Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Made from a field blend of

bush vines, this cuvée of 48% Grenache, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Petite Sirah and 8% Tannat is dense on the nose with blueberry pie and lilac aromas that are ripe yet fresh. The palate is silky with lush tannins, presenting lush flavors of açai and cassis that are cut by cola and clove. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$49

**93 Kunde 2021 Destination Series Dunfillan Cuvée Estate Red Blend (Sonoma Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**93 ONX 2020 Brash Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 15.4% **Price:** \$48

**93 Opolo 2021 Rhapsody Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** This Bordelaise blend from this veteran producer is worth stashing in the cellar. Subtle aromas of blackberry, pepper and leather entertain the nose, while the palate is plush in texture and layered in roasted red fruit, mocha and wood-spice flavors. Drink now–2036. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$50

**93 Pedroncelli 2021 Sonoma Classico Red Blend (Dry Creek Valley).** For full review see page 14.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$24

**93 Roblar Winery Santa Ynez 2020 Grace & Grit Gold Collection Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dark, intense and ripe aromas of blueberry and black cherry are dusted in star anise and more baking spices on the nose of this blend of 51% Cabernet Franc, 41% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Petit Verdot. The palate is bold and creamy in texture, offering lush blueberry, violet and white-pepper flavors; tannins pick up some bite by the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$98

**93 Sixmilebridge 2020 Limerick Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Fat, plush and lovely aromas of stewed red fruit, ample baking spice and comforting toasted wood are seamlessly integrated on the nose of this blend of 67% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. Chalky tannins frame roasted red fruit, coffee bean and savory sandalwood flavors on the palate. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$85

**93 Stolpman 2022 So Fresh GGT Red Blend (Ballard Canyon).** This unique blend of Grenache, Gamay and Trousseau begins with aromas of raspberry, scarlet-red roses and geranium on the nose. The palate moves into a funky direction, pairing brisk pomegranate with white pepper, prosciutto and ashy cheese-rind flavors. **Hidden Gem.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$28

**93 Tablas Creek 2021 Esprit de Tablas Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Elegant layers of black plum, purple flowers, crumpled

thyme and warm spiced cookie show on the nose of this blend of 35% Mourvèdre, 26% Grenache, 23% Syrah, 7% Vaccarese, 5% Cinsaut and 4% Counoise. The palate is still quite young and tightly wound, offering bright cranberry and red-plum flavors alongside chaparral and red-flower elements. Drink now–2038. **Cellar Selection.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**93 The Farm Winery 2019 Touchy-Feely Rhône-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Baked cherry, strawberry, incense and allspice aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 69% Grenache and 31% Syrah. The palate is tense and bright with juicy red-fruit flavors as well as star anise and toasty oak elements that add depth. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$65

**92 Absolution 2021 Great Odin's Blend Red Blend (Central Coast).** Dark red and purple-fruit aromas meet with dried herb on the nose of this blend of 60% Cabernet Franc, 27% Syrah and 13% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is snappy with red fruits and peppery with ample spices, making for a satisfying sip. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50

**92 Chronic Cellars 2021 Love Insects Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Caramel-soaked berry aromas meet with toasty wood spice on the nose of this blend of 86% Tempranillo, 6% Graciano, 6% Grenache and 2% Syrah. The palate is thick in mouthfeel, offering creamy cassis and black-cherry flavors with a pinch of violet and splash of oak spice. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$40

**92 Clay Shannon 2020 The David Red Blend (Lake County).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**92 Common Thread 2022 Three Strands Red Blend (Central Coast).** This creative blend of 57% Pinot Noir, 28% Pinot Gris and 15% Pinot Meunier is refreshingly eye opening. Light in the glass, the bottling offers juicy aromas of Bing cherry, cranberry and wet rocks. The palate is brisk and stony, with red plum skin and light herb flavors. **Editors' Choice.** —M.K.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$40

**92 CRU 2021 G-S-M (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Daou 2022 Pessimist Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This bottling delivers the ripe power that so many want in a package that's balanced by savory elements. Dense aroma of tar, char, asphalt, cassis and cocoa show on the nose. The palate is rich and creamy, loaded with coffee bean, coconut husk and baked fruit flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$30

**92 Dos Amigos 2020 Tres Rancheros G-S-M (Santa Ynez Valley).** Boisterous aromas of boysenberry and violet meet with warmer hints



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of earth and oak on the nose of this blend of 34% Syrah, 33% Grenache and 33% Mourvèdre. The palate combines a fresh boysenberry sorbet flavor with cedar and oak spice. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$35

**92 Field Recordings 2022 Fiasco Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Fresh and lively strawberry fruit aromas are quite inviting on the nose of this blend of 70% Cabernet Sauvignon and 30% Sangiovese. There is ample tension to the palate, which holds back the joyous strawberry and cherry flavors, but the overall effect is a fun, satisfying sip. —M.K.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$39

**92 Field Recordings 2022 So Far Out Chillable Red Red Blend (Central Coast).** The texture is quite unique and appealing on this “chillable” red wine, which is a blend of 45% Corvina, 30% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 5% Charbono. Whereas other brisk wines stay acidic throughout, this bottling starts with tart hibiscus and strawberry elements on the nose and palate, but then quickly rounds into softer, more forgiving sensations. It’s almost creamy by the finish, with white pepper and dank herb elements adding depth. *Hidden Gem.* —M.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$25

**92 Field Recordings 2022 So Far Out Out of Site Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Dark and yet fresh, slightly carbonic aromas of boysenberry and violet pop on the nose of this unique blend of Petite Sirah and Petit Manseng. There’s a lot of potential for this combo, with flavors of dark fruit and black peppercorn, though this one is quite young, with sticky tannins that need some rounding. —M.K.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$45

**92 J. Lohr 2019 Cuvée St. E Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 17.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$50

**92 Jaffurs 2021 High Tide Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** The ripe cherry aroma on the nose of this blend of 60% Mourvèdre, 20% Grenache and 20% Syrah is amplified by mace, clove and nutmeg spices. The palate snaps with a bright red fruit kick that’s coated in a wood-spice flavor, with firm texture into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$46

**92 Jess and Jules 2020 Red Blend (Sonoma County).** This big, full-flavored wine blended from mostly Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah is scented with blackberries and black pepper, drenched in dried cherry, 100% cacao and espresso flavors that reflect good ripe grapes and the complexifying effect of new oak barrels for aging. Firm tannins and a full body make it quite mouth filling. Best from 2025–2035. —J.G.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$25

**92 Klinker Brick 2021 1850° Red Blend (Lodi).** For full review see page 17.

abv: 15%

Price: \$28

**92 McClain Cellars 2020 Five Hearts Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** A dark shade in the glass, this blend of 50% Petite Sirah, 30% Sangiovese and 20% Merlot offers toasty aromas of cocoa nib, coffee, blackberry and violet on the nose. The palate is rich and thick in texture, offering comforting flavors of vanilla, caramel and wood spice. —M.K.

abv: 15.5%

Price: \$85

**92 Midnight 2020 Zenith Estate Cuvée Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Cleanly presented lines of plum, blueberry, char and peppercorn align on the nose of this blend of 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 22% Merlot, 15% Petit Verdot and 15% Malbec. The palate lands with crisp blackberry and boysenberry flavors, as firm tannins and violet elements add depth. —M.K.

abv: 15%

Price: \$83

**92 Refugio Ranch 2020 Barbareño Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** This is a big, rich and bold blend, especially compared to the dominant Santa Barbara styles. Dark in the glass, it begins with aromas of cocoa, cassis and violet extract on the nose. The palate is juicy with black currant and more floral touches, with a tannic tension that drives into the finish. —M.K.

abv: 15%

Price: \$60

**92 Sixmilebridge 2019 Incantation Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Stewed fruit aromas are lifted by comforting clove and vanilla spices as well as a loamy soil and savory mushroom kick on the nose of this blend of 60% Malbec, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot. Soy and baked blackberry meet with a pinch of pepper and toasted herb on the palate, with firm tannins framing the finish. —M.K.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$85

**92 Sixmilebridge 2019 Limerick Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Boysenberry jam, violet and lilac aromas make for a very intense nose on this blend of 65% Merlot, 17% Petit Verdot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. The palate is bold and extracted, showing boysenberry syrup, violet and cracked-pepper flavors. —M.K.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$85

**92 Stolpman 2022 La Cuadrilla Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Directed by and benefiting the estate’s farm crews each vintage, this blend of 60% Syrah, 30% Grenache, 5% Mourvèdre and 5% Sangiovese offers aromas of blackberry sorbet, scarlet red roses and woodspice on the nose. The palate is focused on a core of jammy berries that are balanced by chalky tannins and an acidic bite. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$26

**92 Stolpman 2021 SGM Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Baked red plum and rustic dust aromas show on the nose of this blend of 70% Syrah, 15% Grenache and 15% Mourvèdre. The palate is tense in texture, offering strawberry, herb and crushed rock flavors. A versatile wine for many foods. —M.K.

abv: 14%

Price: \$42

**92 Sunstone 2021 Villa Reserve Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of 44% Merlot, 34% Syrah and 22% Cabernet Franc offers strawberry, cinnamon, crushed rock and a hint of herb on the nose. The palate is fresh and brisk with red fruit, rose petal and white-pepper flavors, making for a versatile food pairing. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$70

**92 Tablas Creek 2022 Patelin de Tablas Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Longtime winemaker Neil Collins continues to master the tapestry of Rhône varieties that this winery imported and nurtured, including new counterparts like Terret Noir. This nine-vineyard blend, which includes 1% of that grape as well as 54% Syrah, 29% Grenache, 13% Mourvèdre and 3% Counoise, offers aromas of cherry, red flower and light earth on the seamless nose. The palate is chalky in grip and layered in cherry, plum and spicy pepper flavors. *Editors’ Choice.* —M.K.

abv: 13%

Price: \$28

**92 Terah 2022 Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast).** Snappy black raspberry, lavender and tart açai aromas show on the nose of this blend of 63% Syrah and 37% Grenache. The blend sails across the palate, offering easy going, relatively light flavors of dark berry and floral elements. —M.K.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$32

**92 The Farm Winery 2019 Pura Vida Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** This Petit Verdot-focused bottling, which also includes 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, begins with a dark hue and intense aromas of stewed blackberry, cigar box and coffee-cocoa candies. The dense palate is packed with blueberry, violet and Concord grape flavors, as deep-rooted tannins provide an intense structure to offset that ripe fruit. —M.K.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$80

**92 The Language of Yes 2022 Cuvée Sinso Rhône-style Red Blend (Central Coast).** For full review see page 19.

abv: 13.3%

Price: \$35

**92 Thirty-Seven 2019 The Hermit Reserve Red Blend (Petaluma Gap).** Deep, dark-fruit flavors, hefty tannins and a jammy richness make you want to gulp this wine down with a pulled pork sandwich or wood-grilled skirt steak. A 50-50 blend of Merlot and Cabernet Franc, the wine offers ample blackberry, dark cherry and oak-spice notes. —J.G.

abv: 14.9%

Price: \$59

**91 Acaibo 2018 Red Blend (Sonoma County).** Layered, complex and spicy, this wine offers earthy, herbal, leathery and meaty accents over deep, dark blueberries and black currants. Intense fruit concentration on the palate trails off to a light smoky touch on the aftertaste. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**91 Barton 2021 Watchtower Paper Street Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles Willow Creek District).** This blend of 45% Syrah, 31% Grenache and 24% Mourvèdre is very rich and bold—perfect for those seeking classic Paso Robles power. Aromas of blueberry, black cherry, toasted oak and gingerbread lead from the nose into a hearty palate of clove, nutmeg and baked berries. The palate is full of caramel. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**91 Croma Vera 2021 Revelación X Red Blend (Central Coast).** A bright color in the glass, this compelling blend of 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Grenache and 5% Graciano offers snappy aromas of raspberry and crushed rock on the nose. The palate is bright and fruity with strawberry-fruit punch flavors that are undercut by a rocky minerality. A very versatile food wine that can quench a barbecue thirst but even work with roasted fish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**91 Falkner 2021 Meritage (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$80

**91 Field Recordings 2022 Fiction Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Straight-ahead aromas of blackberry, cedar, toast and pepper show on the nose of this kitchen-sink blend of nine varieties, led by Zin, Cab Franc and Alicante Bouschet. The blackberry-sauce flavors of the palate are elevated by star anise, cigar box and tobacco-leaf elements. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**91 Figge 2020 Vaquero Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Subtle aromas of black raspberry show on the nose of this blend of 70% Sangiovese and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. The palate is tightly wound and rather bright with red fruit and peppery spice flavors, which should grow more intriguing with patience. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Giornata 2022 Il Campo Rossa Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This is a twist-top wine built for quick cracking to serve on demand with whatever cuisine is on your table. Zesty aromas of red plum and rose petals lead into a palate of cracked pepper and cranberry, served atop a lighter body, but tight texture. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Lucas & Lewellen 2020 Hidden Asset Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** This proprietary blend of Malbec, Merlot, Syrah, Petite Sirah and Cabernet Franc is cohesively integrated on the nose, offering black cherry, strawberry and baking-

spice aromas. Firm tannins on the palate present a hit of cracked pepper, dense berry and spice-cake flavors on the palate, with anise coming through on the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**91 McKahn Family Cellars 2020 Morning Glass Red Blend (Sierra Foothills).** Allow this big, bold blend of Grenache, Petite Verdot and Malbec to open for at least 30 to 40 minutes for best enjoyment. It's worth the wait for its concentrated aromas and flavors of black plum, currant, blueberry, bramble, fennel, anise, clove, nutmeg and leather to truly come to life. The palate is driven by a firm, structural tannic texture, modest acidity, generous alcohol and a lingering finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$30

**91 Midnight 2020 Gemini Red Blend (Paso Robles).** This blend of 25% Zinfandel, 25% Petite Sirah, 25% Malbec and 25% Merlot offers wet clay, dark berry, dried cherry and forest floor on the nose. The palate's baked berry, caramel and clove flavors will integrate more fully with time. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$68

**91 Midnight 2020 Mare Nectaris Reserve Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Tart black plum, violet, cedar plank and aged-beef aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 21% Merlot, 11% Malbec, 8% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc. The wood spice is prominent on the palate, where a dense blackberry core leads into a dry finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$68

**91 Optio 2021 Inmesceo Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Toasty oak aromas wrap around the dense cassis and blueberry scents on the nose of this blend of 47% Cabernet Sauvignon, 38% Mourvèdre, 10% Syrah and 5% Petite Sirah. Lovely açai and Concord grape flavors make for a poppy palate, with star anise and light pepper adding nuance. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**90 Asuncion Ridge 2020 Salacious Rhône-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Dark strawberry, dried plum and incense aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 57% Grenache, 28% Mourvèdre and 15% Syrah. There's a lot of herbal kick to the palate, where bay leaf meets with bright raspberry and nutty pecan flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.9% **Price:** \$48

**90 Berryessa Gap 2020 Her Majesty Red Blend (Yolo County).** This hardy red blend emits beautiful aromatics of red and black cherry and plum, wild strawberry, roses and violets. The palate follows through layering on additional notes of cacao, anise, leaf litter and toasted wood. The palate is filled with a tannic tension, rounded by the generous (14.8%) alcohol and balanced by a modest acidity. Drink now. This would pair beautifully with venison, served rare, alongside a berry compote. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$55

**90 Blade & Talon 2022 Lucky Tiger Circle S Vineyard Red Blend (San Benito).** Winemaker Nat Wong nodes to his generational California-Chinese roots in this blend of 57% Cabernet Pfeffer and 43% Mourvèdre. It's light in the glass, offering fresh strawberry, cherry and sandalwood aromas on the nose. The palate is pleasantly simple, showing red apple, cinnamon and sumac flavors on a very light frame, likely excellent for spicy Chinese dishes. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Blade & Talon 2022 Vin Rouge Circle S Vineyard Red Blend (San Benito).** Fresh aromas of plum and strawberry make for a fruit-driven nose on this blend of 44% Negrette, 34% Malbec and 22% Cabernet Franc. The palate is tart and floral, offering plum skin, rose petal and white-pepper flavors atop a taut frame. —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$36

**90 Cobble Creek 2022 Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Crushed rocks, smashed cherry and dense cranberry aromas show on the nose of this blend. That cherry-cranberry combo holds true on the palate, with more mineral tones from river stone and scorched earth as well as a hint of leather. *Best Buy.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**90 Falkner 2021 Amante Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$80

**90 Indigené 2020 Ambiente Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Creamy aromas of caramel and black plum pudding make for a rich entry to the nose of this bottling. The palate is thick in mouthfeel, offering baked berry alongside allspice, pepper and more caramel flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$40

**90 Left Bend NV Mashup Version 7 Red Blend (Santa Cruz Mountains).** The initial batch of this nonvintage, solera-style bottling began in 2010 and it's been intriguing to follow along through the annual releases. This version offers rounded aromas of blackberry and prominent wood spice on the nose. The palate combines blackberry, cracked pepper and ample herbs with a redwood spice. *Editors' Choice.* —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$75

**90 McGrail 2021 Sláinte Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** A lot of folks don't realize how well Portuguese grapes grow in the heart of Livermore Valley—but this blend of Touriga Nacional and Souzao is a testament to just that. Find aromas and flavors of violets and roses, cedar wood, black-cherry compote, chocolate and sweet tobacco with a palate filled with a coating tannic texture, generous acidity and a pleasantly warm finish. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$39

**90 McGrail 2020 Shamus Patrick Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** This is a big blend containing Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Malbec, Petit

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Verdot and Cabernet Franc. The full body, complete with warming alcohol and course tannins, offers layered flavors of black cherry, chocolate, pastry crust, nutmeg, vanilla, dried violets, cut wood and sweet tobacco. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$46

**90 Peachy Canyon 2021 Cirque du Vin Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Smashed blackberry, light lavender and crushed marjoram aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 45% Cabernet Sauvignon, 34% Malbec, 13% Petit Verdot and 8% Cabernet Franc. The juicy boysenberry core of the palate is dusted in dried herbs and wrapped in a solid tension. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Peachy Canyon 2021 The Odd One Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Hints of red flowers, cinnamon dust and light clove play against the red currant and cranberry aromas on the nose of this blend of 81% Zinfandel, 13% Carignane and 6% Mourvèdre. It's medium bodied on the palate, where strawberry, cracked pepper and juniper flavors meet. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.1% **Price:** \$45

**90 Peltzer Family 2019 Super Tuscan Red Blend (Temecula Valley).** A lighter hue in the glass, this blend of 85% Sangiovese, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot offers baked strawberry, roasted meat, black pepper and soy aromas on the nose. The palate is rustic in style, but pleasantly so, showing peppered salami, red currant, teriyaki and fennel-pollen flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$52

**90 Sixmilebridge 2020 Incantation Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** This blend of 74% Malbec, 14% Cabernet Sauvignon, 7% Merlot, 3% Petit Verdot and 2% Cabernet Franc starts with aromas of violet and slightly tart Concord grape on the nose. The palate packs in açai flavors with spicy licorice. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$85

**90 Stolpman 2022 Para Maria de los Tecolotes Red Blend (Santa Barbara County).** Black plum and purple-flower aromas meet with thyme and savory seaweed aromas on the nose of this blend of 75% Syrah and 25% Petit Verdot. The palate's roasted fruit core is layered in thyme and chaparral herbs on the palate. —M.K.

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

**90 Sunstone 2021 Zephyr Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Intense and dark aromas of ripe berry, leather and dusty oregano stalks show on the nose of this blend of 64% Malbec, 16% Syrah, 12% Cabernet Sauvignon and 8% Cabernet Franc. There's a firm structure to the palate, where bright purple fruit flavors are cut by very dry herbs. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 The Farm Winery 2019 The Big Game Red Blend (Adelaida District).** This blend of

67% Cabernet Sauvignon, 23% Syrah, 5% Malbec and 5% Petit Verdot is packed with herbal aromas of thyme, oregano and chaparral that complement the brisk black-plum fruit. The palate combines a similar pattern, pairing tart plum and fennel pollen. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$75

**90 Tierra y Vino 2020 Tres Uvas Rhône-style Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Dense and ripe aromas of black plum, clove, nutmeg and caramel entertain the nose on this blend of 40% Grenache, 40% Syrah and 20% Petite Sirah. The palate is rich and heavy with baked plum, more baking spice and hearty oak tones. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$54

**89 Bella Luna 2019 Carly's Vineyard Estate Riserva Red Blend (Templeton Gap District).**

Blackberry-jam aromas are lifted by licorice and toasted oregano on the nose of this blend of 70% Sangiovese and 30% Cabernet Sauvignon. Cracked pepper and more herbs decorate the tart red-fruit flavors of the palate. —M.K.

**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$58

**89 Berryessa Gap 2020 The Sire Red Blend (Yolo County).** This Petite Sirah-dominated blend

offers initial aromas of violet, boysenberry, blackberry, black cherry, cacao, prune and black olives. The palate carries through on that promise and is driven by robust (14.9%) alcohol, balanced acidity and a plush tannic texture. Perfect for any lover of big, bold reds. —S.B.

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

**89 Birichino 2022 Buraribi Red Blend (California).** A 50-50 split of Carignan and Grenache, this red blend offers lovely flavors of red cherry, wild strawberry, damp forest floor, dewy rose petals and basil. The palate is driven by energetic acidity, coated with a sandy tannic texture and all leading toward a clean finish. —S.B.

**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Birichino 2022 Rokurokubi & Inugami Red Blend (California).** This blend of Cinsault, Mourvèdre and Grenache offers initial aromas of boysenberry, wild strawberry, red and black cherry, and grape jelly. Medium to full body, the palate offers a warmth from alcohol, modest acidity and flavors that perfectly mirror the nose. —S.B.

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

**89 Hungry Hawk 2020 Lonesome BriArs Red Blend (San Diego County).** Crushed rock aromas meet with boysenberry and black cherry on the nose of this blend of 55% Tempranillo and 45% Carmenere, as herbs linger in the background. The palate throws those herbs to the forefront, decorating the candied red cherry and wood-spice flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$56

**89 Obvious Wines 2020 No. 01 Dark & Bold Red Blend (Central Coast).** Baked plums, star anise and dark soil aromas make for a pleasing nose

on this bottling. The palate lands smoothly with clove, mace and creamy berry flavors, as a tannic bite hits briefly. **Best Buy.** —M.K.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$16

**88 13 Rams 2020 Red Blend (Lake County).** A straight-forward, quaffable red blend consisting of predominantly Petite Sirah with small percentages of Cab Sauv and Sangiovese in the mix. Find notes of black cherry compote, plum jam, cut wood and cacao. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$29

**88 Banshee 2021 Mordecai Red Blend (North Coast).** Mordecai—yes, named after exactly what you think—has always been a fun addition to the Banshee portfolio since the brand's inception. Enjoy notes of black cherry, black plum, cinnamon, licorice and toasted wood. —S.B.

**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 C'est La Vie at Europa Village 2020 En Vie Rhône-style Red Blend (Temecula Valley).**

This blend of 40% Syrah, 40% Mourvèdre and 40% Grenache is built for licorice lovers, as that spice carries throughout the experience. Aromas of anise and baked strawberry decorate the nose, while the palate is loaded with fennel pollen, light pepper and baked red fruits. —M.K.

**abv:** 15.8% **Price:** \$47

**88 Crush 2021 T-N-T Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Tart plum and berry aromas meet with light cocoa on the nose of this blend of 60% Tempranillo and 4% Tannat. The tannins are tight on the palate and the tartness returns in the red-plum skin flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$58

**88 Figge 2021 Stella's G-S-M (Santa Ynez Valley).** Muddled herb, stewed fruit and caramel aromas converge on the nose of this blend of 50% Syrah, 25% Grenache and 25% Mourvèdre. The palate is similar in flavors, with very ripe fruit and caramel flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$35

**88 Giornata 2021 Gemellaia Red Blend (Paso Robles).** Dark-plum aromas show a tart side on the nose of this blend of Sangiovese and Merlot from four vineyards, with warmth coming from cardamom spice. The palate is quite tart with cranberry and tomato-sauce flavors. —M.K.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$65

**88 Girasole 2021 Charlie's Blend Red Blend (Mendocino).** This is a friendly, drink-me-now red with notes of macerated black cherry, blackberry jam, boysenberry compote, grape jelly, black pepper, chocolate and vanilla carried by sandy, gritty tannins and gentle acidity. **Best Buy.** —S.B.

**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$18

**88 McClain Cellars 2020 Once in a Lifetime Red Blend (Santa Ynez Valley).** Extracted and aged aromas of dried and stewed fruits meet with



clove and leather on the nose of this blend of 36% Cabernet Sauvignon, 36% Merlot, 14% Syrah and 14% Sangiovese. The palate is framed by ample structure and acidity, while being loaded with cassis, clove and nutmeg flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15.7% **Price:** \$74

**88 Mesa Del Sol 2019 Prima Rosso Red Blend (Arroyo Seco).** This blend of Zinfandel, Syrah, Sangiovese and Grenache is a very nice table wine for easy-going midweek enjoyment, starting with aromas of strawberry, red plum and white pepper. The palate is light bodied, with crisp cranberry and peppered charcuterie flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$32

**88 Outlander 2021 Meritage (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 27. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$8

**88 Sixmilebridge 2019 Shannon Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Adelaida District).** Aromas of dark, stewed fruits show a slightly tangy side on the nose of this blend of 46% Cabernet Sauvignon, 24% Merlot, 20% Malbec, 5% Cabernet Franc and 5% Petit Verdot. The palate shows tart blackberry, proving quite tangy by the finish. —M.K.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$85

**88 Smith Devereux 2020 Red Blend (California).** This Cab-Merlot-Syrah blend is a simple, easy sipper with straight-forward notes of rose bush, bramble, prune, raisin and black plum. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$30

**88 Thumbprint Cellars 2019 Betsy's Vineyard Syrah-Viognier (Knights Valley).** This big, powerful, high-octane wine comes in hot with roasted-cherry aromas, a warm mouthfeel and generous dried cherries, grilled plums and beef jus flavors. Rather high in tannins and full in body, the wine can tackle the richest osso buco or beef stew. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$58

**87 Nella Terra 2022 Sunol Highlands Vineyard Red Blend (Livermore Valley).** This 50-50 split of Zin and Petite Sirah offers aromas and flavors of boysenberry preserves, blackberry jam, black cherry compote, river rock, damp soils, chocolate and grape jelly. —S.B.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$46

**87 VDR 2021 Red Blend (Monterey County).** Quite dark in the glass, this bottling begins with savory aromas of asphalt and tar. The palate turns out to be quite sweet and smooth, with black cherry, cassis, cola and root beer flavors. —M.K.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$25

**85 Bota Box NV Nighthawk Black Rum Barrell Aged Red Blend (California).** This red is ripe with rich black and blue fruits that are coated in a kind of subtle sweetness from the rum barrel aging process. —S.B.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23/3 L

**84 Bota Box NV RedVolution Red Blend (California).** This full-bodied wine has a plush tannic texture, warmth from nearly overripe red and black fruits and just a kiss of RS giving it a sweetish edge. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23/3 L

**82 Black Box 2021 Red Blend (California).** This blend of Petite Sirah, Tereoldego and Tempranillo offers a medium to full body with a plush, squashy tannic texture which, along with the robust fruits, gives the perception of a slight sweetness. —S.B.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20/3 L

## DESSERT WINES

**91 Bricoleur 2021 The Last Note Late Harvest Viognier-Chardonnay (Sonoma County).** For full review see page 19.  
**abv:** 12.6% **Price:** \$45/375 ml

**91 David Clinton 2017 Forté Mounts Vineyard Zinfandel (Dry Creek Valley).** Sweet, super-ripe and fortified like a Port, this dessert-style wine is nicely concentrated, quite rich and syrupy but balanced out by the heat of elevated alcohol and firmness of the tannins. Toasted walnuts with Stilton cheese is a classic pairing. —J.G.  
**abv:** 18.8% **Price:** \$25/375 ml

**91 La Quinta NV Port Syrah (Paso Robles).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 18.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Carol Shelton 2021 Black Magic Late Harvest Zinfandel (Sonoma County).** This affordable, sweet and full-bodied red wine is packed with sugared strawberries and blueberries on a sturdy frame of alcohol and grippy tannins that keep the sweetness from being too much. Serve to friends who have a sweet tooth, and with a cheese course. —J.G.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$20

## OREGON

### CHARDONNAY

**94 Abbott Claim 2021 X-Omni Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**94 Artist Block 2021 Woo Juice Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This Wente clone shot berry selection Chardonnay will make you get up on your toes and say "woo" like Ric Flair. The wine's aromas of browned butter, guava, flint and crushed lemon SweetTarts are mesmerizing. Yellow apple, saline and lemon verbena tea flavors are ably supported by zippy acidity. Embrace the Woo. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.0% **Price:** \$75

**94 Haakon/Lenai 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** A beautiful combination of zingy acidity and a light texture makes this one of my favorite Chardonnays from a strong vintage. The exhibition starts with lemon and brown butter with sage aromas that are hunger pang inducing. Flavors like lemon curd and butterscotch are counterpointed by a delightful bitter note akin to mustard greens. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**93 Division 2022 Un Chardonnay (Willamette Valley).** The "Un" is one lean, green Chardonnay machine. It smells like cold steel and lemonade, with bits of crunchy, dried maple leaves and wet slate. The crunchy mouthfeel lights up with lemony acidity and flavors like tart pineapple, green papaya salad and thyme. If you are looking for butter, hunt elsewhere. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 1% **Price:** \$30

**93 Domaine Divio 2021 Pearlstad Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This light and nimble Chardonnay did 14 months in French oak, 35% lightly toasted and new. The nose is fresh and clean, with lively lemon zest and saline aromas enveloping notes of lilac and toasted pecans. The palate features yellow apple and toasted hazelnut flavors, with a crisp texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$65

**92 Abbott Claim 2021 Temperance Hill Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** This Chardonnay's pear, sage butter and toasted hazelnut aromas join a flinty note reminiscent of a Fourth of July sparkler. Modest acidity and a mouthfeel tip-toeing up to creamy joins flavors like a not-quite-ripe Bartlett pear and cinnamon. Order the grilled Tandoori chicken skewers, stat. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**92 Andante 2021 Estate Chardonnay (Van Duzer Corridor).** Talk about a great price-to-quality-ratio! A dazzling perfume of Mirabelle plums and tangerines greet the nose, accented by puffs of talc and warm candlewax. The wine's juicy acidity is as precise as the 13.14% abv listed on the label. Each sip delivers a sweet-tart combination of lemon sorbet and lime zest. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.14% **Price:** \$35

**92 Division 2021 Deux Eola Springs Vineyard Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Light in body and mouthfeel, explosive in terms of acidity is the wine's motto. Aromas of peach skins and wet chalk almost make you think you are about to sip an extended skin contact wine. Then you get hit with lemon-lime, Thai basil and buttered popcorn flavors that flip the narrative. Job well done. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.3% **Price:** \$55

**92 Left Coast 2021 Truffle Hill Chardonnay (Van Duzer Corridor).** Do the Truffle Hill shuffle to earn aromas of lemon, buttery shortbread, basil, chalk and crushed cashews. The wine's crisp texture accompanies fresh, lively flavors like green tea with

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a lemon wedge and a trace of shredded coconut. The Truffle Hill aged nine months in 20% new and 80% neutral French oak. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$26

**91 Abbott Claim 2021 Chardonnay (Eola-Amity Hills).** Yellow apple, lemon and sage butter aromas are punctuated by a salty/tangy note that will make you crave salt and vinegar potato chips. The palate is a nice blend of tart grapefruit and sweet, ripe peach flavors. There's a little body here, with decent enough acidity. This might pair nicely with baked mac and cheese. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**90 Chehalem 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Dundee Hills).** Tropical aromas of coconut, macadamia nuts and lemon are accented by wisps of butter and sage. This is a lean, clean Chardonnay machine, with lemon meringue and saline cracker flavors flanked by acidity that screams "crunch." —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$45

**89 Smera 2021 Smera Vineyards Chardonnay (McMinnville).** After a year in neutral French oak, this Chardonnay is light on its feet and flashing bright acidity. Muted lemongrass tea and melon aromas lead to flavors like grilled pineapple and bergamot tea. The wine's texture is crisp and lively. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**87 Elouan 2021 Chardonnay (Oregon).** A ripe pear aroma is accompanied by popped corn and clarified butter notes. The same fruit appears on the palate, although here it's more like pear that's been poached and served with grated ginger. Toasted walnut and butter flavors make cameo appearances. The mouthfeel is soft and creamy, with modest acidity. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$20

## PINOT GRIS

**92 Artist Block 2021 Yummy Yummy Yummy Pinot Gris (Yamhill-Carlton).** Yummy, yummy, yummy, I got love in my tummy for a real fine gris like you. Ohio Express aside, this is a delightful skin contact wine. Aromas of chalkboard dust, Cara Cara oranges and an herbaceous note of deadheaded marigolds make a nice introduction to flavors like apricots and the white powder found on bubble gum. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$51

**91 King Estate 2022 Domaine Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**90 Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Beurot Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Named in honor of the traditional Burgundian name for this variety, the wine leads with lemon sorbet, freshly turned earth and honeycomb aromas. Flavors of kiwi, preserved lemons and almond toffee glide over a creamy pal-

ate, with just enough acidity to maintain a sense of balance. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Second Growth 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Melting beeswax and Meyer lemon-scented soap aromas are joined by a most interesting yeasty note that is similar to warm sour-dough bread. Nice, lemony acidity shines a spotlight on honeydew, apple cider, honeycomb and orange pith flavors. This is a lively treat. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$16

**89 Lujon 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This light-bodied, stainless steel-fermented Pinot Gris is a snappy little number. Ripe pear and wet slate aromas are joined by a rather compelling damp peach fuzz scent. It has a crisp texture, lemony acidity and coconut sorbet and tangy guava flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**89 Northwest Ridge 2022 8 Barrel Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** This light-bodied Pinot Gris with a modest amount of acid pep in its step hits the ground running with aromas of peaches and chalkboard dust. The wine's pronounced lemon-lime flavors have a bit of stevia-tinged sweetness to them that complements a fresh, clean mouthfeel and a touch of pear on the finish. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$27

**89 Sweet Cheeks 2021 Oak Hill Reserve Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** After 12 hours on the skins and spending time in stainless steel and neutral oak barrels, this medium-bodied Pinot Gris strikes first with aromas of tangerine, lime zest and ripe, sweet blueberries. A stunningly brisk mouthfeel goes hand in hand with tart grapefruit and lemongrass tea flavors. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Alesong 2022 Pinot Gris (Dundee Hills).** A promising aromatic set features notes of Golden Delicious and sweet-tart Ginger Gold apples floating on a bed of tangerine and talc. This is a semi-sparkling, oak-aged Pinot Gris with soft bubbles, a creamy texture and flavors of orange cream-sicle mixed with various gin botanicals. A bit more acidity would have been enthusiastically welcomed. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$22/500 ml

**88 The Four Graces 2022 Pinot Gris (Willamette Valley).** Lemon curd and wet slate drive this aroma train, with a caboose filled with peaches. Flavors like lemon, yellow apples and macadamia nuts chug along a creamy texture, escorted by modest acidity. Try it with grilled halibut and Warren Zevon's "Casey Jones" cover. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$21

## PINOT BLANC

**92 Harper Voit 2018 Elevage Pinot Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills).** I'm not used to encountering a

Pinot Blanc that has been held at the winery this long, but it is worth the wait. Kaffir lime and breadfruit aromas are worth the price of this wine all by themselves. Pineapple and kiwi flavors floating on a supple texture are a bonus. Try it with a halibut steak covered with lemon slices. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$40

**91 Left Coast 2022 Leftbank Pinot Blanc (Van Duzer Corridor).** The Leftbank is 100% barrel fermented, with full malo and a 10-month rest in neutral oak. As a result, it has some body and a pleasingly creamy texture. Aromas of chilled Gala apples, quince and cinnamon lead to flavors like pear, lemon verbena tea, white chocolate and macadamia nut. It's Champagne-like but without bubbles. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**90 The Four Graces 2022 Pinot Blanc (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 24.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$23

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**93 Harper Voit 2020 Gigi Maresh Vineyard Riesling (Dundee Hills).** Delightfully dry, this Riesling is made with old vine fruit from one of Oregon's grandest vineyards. The wine is packed with aromas and flavors of lemon, honeycomb, Golden Delicious apples, lime zest and dill. It has a laser beam of acidity that goes right to the part of the brain that regulates pleasure. Drink now—2035. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$38

**92 Domaine Divio 2022 Aligoté (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 16.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$32

**92 Franchere 2022 Lionesses White Blend (Willamette Valley).** A coferment of 64% Ehrenfeller and 37% Kerner? I'm in. The aromatic adventure begins with passion fruit, lychee and Meyer lemon Jell-O shots uniting with notes of jasmine and rose petals. There's a lot of saline on the palate, along with flavors like starfruit, bitter almond and bubble gum powder. Fun, personified. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$22

**89 Left Coast 2022 White Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** The lighter-bodied white Pinot Noir was fermented and aged in 100% stainless steel for six months. The wine's ripe cantaloupe and papaya aromas are accented by a touch of freshly cut grass. Flavor-wise, this is an interesting mix of red cherries and lemon-lime soda, with soft acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**89 Sweet Cheeks 2022 Dry Riesling (Oregon).** This authentically dry Riesling offers aromas of passion fruit, smoked almonds and a petrol-like aroma similar to the scent of a vinyl LP pulled from its album sleeve for the first time. Broiled

grapefruit and lemon verbena tea flavors are supported by brisk acidity and a crisp mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$30

## SPARKLING WINES

### 93 **Domaine Divio 2019 Cremant Rosé Hyland Vineyard Sparkling Pinot Noir (McMinnville).**

Ah, this pretty in pink sparkling wine is a dazzler. The chalky red fruit aroma reminds me of Cap'n Crunch's Crunch Berries—a big plus in my book. Cherry and strawberry flavors float on a layer of orange zest and ginger notes. The wine's acidity is high enough to earn the "thrilling" tag. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$70

### 92 **Domaine Divio 2019 Cremant Blanc de Blanc Hyland Vineyard Sparkling Chardonnay (McMinnville).**

The complexity of this wine's aromatic set, running from smoked butterscotch and chanterelle mushrooms to fresh hay and lemon peel, is impressive. Lemon verbena and mint flavors are joined by a slight hint of simple syrup sweetness. There's a nice acidity, with a round-in-the-mouth quality. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$75

### 92 **Harper Voit 2018 Blanc de Blancs Sparkling Pinot Blanc (Eola-Amity Hills).**

A natural method 100% Pinot Blanc sparkler is truly a "hidden gem." The bubbles are a bit subdued, but the wine's mouthfeel is fresh and crisp. Golden Delicious apple, lemon sorbet and yeasty sourdough starter aromas fill the air with each glass swirl. Brilliant acidity lights up flavors like tangerine, pink grapefruit and wet slate. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$75

### 92 **Sokol Blosser 2018 Blossom Ridge Vineyard Sparkling Rosé of Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).**

This sparkling single vineyard Pinot Noir rosé is for acid lovers everywhere. Brilliant acidity akin to rubbing lemon juice on your lips amplifies flavors of white grapefruit, Mandarin orange and white chocolate. Aromas like rose petals, raspberries and coconut sugar drift lazily from the glass. Lively up yourself. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$60

## ROSÉ

### 90 **Domaine St. Laurent 2022 Block One Rosé de Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).**

For full review see page 22.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$28

### 89 **Domaine Divio 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).**

The wine's bouquet of mint and lavender is joined by ripe cantaloupe and peach aromas. Acidity is on the soft side here, with a sweet strawberry bubble gum flavor contrasted by a trace

of grapefruit. Might be nice with an old-fashioned crab puff appetizer. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$32

### 89 **The Four Graces 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).**

This aromatic one-two punch of an icy cold peach granita and lemon is quite refreshing. The wine's creamy texture and soft acidity make for smooth sipping, with flavors of strawberry sorbet, toasted coconut and almonds. Pair it with yacht rock and Margherita pizza. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$21

### 88 **Conscious by Samuel Robert 2022 Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).**

The dynamic aromatic duo of peaches and cantaloupe have a slightly earthy sidekick that is similar to oregano. Bright acidity complements flavors like strawberry pastilles and orange zest. This will make a fine pairing with back porches and a cup of spicy gazpacho. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

### 87 **Gothic 2022 TellTale Rosé (Willamette Valley).**

Pinot Blanc and Müller-Thurgau are the heart of this multi-variety blend. Sliced tangerine aromas dominate, joined by wee bits of talc and eucalyptus. Peach and lemon flavors blend nicely with notes of mint and powdered sugar. The wine's juicy acidity is a highlight. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$18

### 87 **Samuel Robert 2022 Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir Rosé (Willamette Valley).**

A sweet-tart aromatic combination of cotton candy and pink grapefruit leads to flavors like peach Melba and ripe green seedless grapes. The wine has a slippery mouthfeel to go along with a touch of sweetness and modest acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$16

## PINOT NOIR

### 96 **Elk Cove 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).**

For full review see page 4.  
*Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

### 95 **Domaine Divio 2021 Toison d'Or Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).**

The aromatic combination of smoked venison and blackberries, with a pine needles spice, is hard to beat. Lemony acidity lights up cherry and juniper berry flavors. The tiny bacon flavor is a bonus. The wine's texture tiptoes to the leather edge, courtesy of muscular tannins. Drink now–2035. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$115

### 95 **Haakon/Lenai 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).**

A sweet-tart aromatic combination of blackberries and boysenberries is accented by touches of cinnamon, violet and saline. The wine's texture is clean and crisp, with flavors like red raspberries, dark chocolate and espresso. This is medium-bodied fare, with lively acidity and

muscular tannins. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$110

### 95 **Harper Voit 2019 Antiquum Vineyard Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).**

This wine is pure magic. It begins with a wondrous combination of electric currents of acidity and leathery tannins. The aromatic set is an umami showcase of raspberries, ginger, grilled tofu and seaweed salinity. Boysenberry, orange pith and sesame seed oil flavors demand an order of tuna belly sashimi. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$75

### 95 **Nicolas-Jay 2021 Own-Rooted Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).**

This elegant wine is made with fruit from the own-rooted vines of three mature Willamette Valley vineyards: Bishop Creek, Hyland and Nysa. Dark raspberry and plum aromas are encircled by notes of lemon peel and crushed brick dust. Bright acidity is matched by silky tannins, with flavors of black cherries, blueberries and bergamot tea. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

### 95 **Raptor Ridge 2021 Tuscowallame Estate Whole Cluster Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).**

The wine's blackberry and vanilla aromas are joined by a yeasty note similar to calzone dough being rolled out on the counter. Spine-tingling acidity lights up flavors of cranberries, candied rose petals and cedar. Firm tannins are almost a match for the acidity, and there's a long finish. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

### 95 **Winderlea 2021 Winderlea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).**

For full review see page 6.  
*Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$80

### 94 **Abbott Claim 2021 Orientate Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).**

For full review see page 6.  
*Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

### 94 **David Paige 2021 Chehalem Mountains Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).**

For full review see page 6. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$62

### 94 **Elk Cove 2021 La Bohème Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).**

For full review see page 7. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$70

### 94 **Harper Voit 2019 Bramble Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).**

This nimble Pinot Noir dances on the palate like Baryshnikov on his best day. Blueberry and cherry aromas are complemented by sweet bursts of hyacinth and graham cracker. Invigorating acidity and velvety tannins back flavors of cherries, blood orange juice, almonds and bergamot tea. Finesse, personified. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$75



**94 Nicolas-Jay 2021 Bishop Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Balanced and elegant, this wine dazzles with aromas of blackcap raspberries and star anise complemented by savory notes of seared pork and loamy soil. Firm tannins and bright acidity back flavors like blackberries, coriander, wet slate, cedar and thyme. What a treat. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$100

**94 Nicolas-Jay 2021 Temperance Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Blackberries and blueberries fill the air, followed by subtle hyacinth and anise scents. The wine feels rich and full in the mouth, with rippling tannins and lightning strike acidity. Intense boysenberry and orange zest flavors hold court, joined by notes of lemon basil and white chrysanthemum tea. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$95

**94 Walnut Ridge 2022 Vieilles Vignes Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Vieilles Vignes offers dark raspberry and citrus aromas that are accompanied by notes of wet modeling clay and crunchy dried oak leaves. Velvety tannins and brisk acidity support flavors like Bing cherries, sweet tea and roasted portobello mushrooms. This would make a nice pairing for cassoulet or rabbit stew. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**94 Winderlea 2021 Legacy Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 9. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 12.4% **Price:** \$105

**93 Abbott Claim 2021 Due North Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Due North features an earthy aromatic one-two punch of ripe Oregon white truffles and hay, all backed by a tempting cloud of smoked cherries. The wine tastes like a blackberry pie served on a cedar sideboard with a cup of black tea. A creamy texture accompanies velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$125

**93 Broadley 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This balanced wine has to be one of the Willamette Valley's best Pinot Noir values. Aromas of red cherries, dried rose petals and a trace of aged balsamic vinegar are an almost perfect perfume. A flawless mix of citrus acidity and silky tannins support flavors like blackberry, thyme and a wisp of Assam tea. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$25

**93 Broadley 2021 Claudia's Choice Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Claudia clearly has great taste. Her selection hits first with dusty blackberry aromas, then notes of orange peel and crunchy fallen oak leaves. A bright cherry flavor is matched by a dollop of orange marmalade, with bits of peel included, saline and black tea. Modest tannins, juicy acidity and a smooth texture await. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$58

**93 Broadley 2021 Marcile Lorraine Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is a nicely balanced Pinot Noir that delivers aromas and flavors of black cherries, bittersweet chocolate, cola and a ristretto (a concentrated shot of espresso). The wine's elevated acidity and silky tannins help create a texture that is crisp and lively. A touch of meatiness appears with some air time. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$58

**93 David Paige 2019 RPG Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** For full review see page 11. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$82

**93 Domaine Divio 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Elk Cove 2021 Goodrich Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** For full review see page 12.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$70

**93 Elk Cove 2021 Roosevelt Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** For full review see page 12. *Cellar Selection.*  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$85

**93 Harper Voit 2019 Bieze Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Made with fruit from one of the Willamette Valley's great vineyards, this is a Pinot Noir that has it all—perky acidity, brawny tannins and a tart and tangy mouthfeel. Dark raspberry, lavender and cedar aromas lead to flavors of red cherries, lemon zest and a touch of toast. Drink now–2032. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$75

**93 Nicolas-Jay 2021 Momtazi Vineyard Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** Beautiful fruit and a deft winemaking touch make for a fine marriage. Blackberry-and-blueberry cobbler aromas are pierced by tangy notes of orange peel and catmint. Blood orange and raspberry flavors unite in a beautiful way with bursts of ginger and black pepper. This has brisk acidity and a silky texture, with velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**93 Winderlea 2021 Dundee Hills Vineyards Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This wine's aromas of lilacs, goat cheese, fresh bread, oregano, raspberries and beeswax bring on the urge to find a picnic blanket and a place to stretch out. Tart raspberry and lemon flavors join forces with notes of saline and espresso. Restrained alcohol, zippy acidity and silky tannins make this a smooth sipping experience. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$55

**93 Winderlea 2021 Meredith Mitchell Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** This is my favorite Meredith since Baxter. It features a perfume of boysenberry, caramel and violet that captures attention with each swirl of the glass. Life-affirming acidity lights up flavors like blackcap raspberries, lemon zest and

saline. The wine's tannins are as silky as its mouthfeel. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$70

**93 Winderlea 2021 Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This wine's aromas are like fall personified, with boysenberries, crunchy dried oak leaves and a touch of pumpkin spice filling the air. Bright acidity shines a spotlight on blackberry scone, black tea and macadamia nut flavors. A brisk mouthfeel and sturdy tannins await. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$80

**93 Winderlea 2021 Worden Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 15. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$70

**92 Andante 2021 Estate Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** Shave dark chocolate over a bowl of ripe blackberries to understand this wine's perfume. Joining in the fun is a sweet lilac aroma. Flavor-wise, this wine is all tart cherries and anise, with a spot of white tea. Plush tannins, soft acidity and a smooth, round mouthfeel await. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.38% **Price:** \$45

**92 Artist Block 2021 XXX Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** This wine smells so pretty, you almost forget to take a sip. Almost. It smells like a warm raspberry scone flecked with bits of white chocolate and candied orange peel. Darker black cherry fruit awaits on the palate, with black tea and lemon notes in the background. A balanced beauty. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**92 Division 2022 Un Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Always one of Oregon's great Pinot Noir values, this latest "Un" packs a bit more body and tannic structure than usual. Don't worry, that signature snappy acidity hasn't gone anywhere. Look for aromas and flavors of tart raspberry, cherry, salty beach driftwood, anise and black tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$30

**92 Fiddlehead Cellars 2016 Oldsville Pinot Noir (Oregon).** For full review see page 16. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$60

**92 King Estate 2022 Artisan Series Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 17.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$29

**92 Raptor Ridge 2021 Duo Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Duo represents the winery's best two barrels from the vintage. It is a dynamic Duo in 2021, with electric acidity matched by firm tannins. Aromatically, the Duo smells like strawberry shortcake with a touch of lemon. A complex set of flavors includes cherry, orange, dark chocolate and English breakfast tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**92 Samuel Robert 2022 Vineyard Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Vineyard Reserve opens with a comforting breakfast aroma of rose hip jam and butter slathered on sourdough toast. The wine's flavors are equally compelling with black cherry and clove counterpointed by a touch of smoked meat. A creamy texture accompanies soft acidity and velvety tannins. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**92 Twin Suns 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine is a true rarity—a kosher wine made with Willamette Valley fruit. Its rarity is matched by good quality, beginning with aromas of ripe black cherries, fresh pine needles and a trace of crushed caraway seeds or rye bread. Firm tannins and juicy acidity frame flavors like blackberries and strong-brewed black tea. *Kosher. Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$30

**92 Walnut Ridge 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This lithe and lean Pinot Noir begins with aromas of freshly turned earth, blackberries and a trace of vanilla bean. The wine's flavor profile is quite similar, with blackberries joined by crushed walnuts and balsa wood. Lively acidity is matched by some serious tannic structure. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$40

**92 Winderlea 2021 Ewes' View at Worden Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Talk about mouthwatering—this wine possesses the kind of acidity that raises goose bumps. Raspberry and rhubarb oat crumble aromas are joined by a tiny bit of rosemary and rose hips. Crisp and tangy cranberry, raspberry and wild strawberry flavors go on forever, accented by a green tea note. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$60

**91 Abbott Claim 2021 Abbott Claim Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** This wine's superfloral nose smells like a bouquet of hyacinth and jasmine, with raspberry and pine resin aromas in the background. Tangy acidity and silky tannins back flavors of raspberry pie, pistachios and a trace of cedar. Quite a fresh and lively wine. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$75

**91 Andante 2021 Reserve No. 6 Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** This reserve wine's searing acidity is not for the faint of heart. It electrifies flavors like tart red cherries, not-quite-ripe blackberries and earthy green tea. The aromas are a floral blast of violets and lilacs, with lemon zest and dark raspberries bringing up the rear. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$55

**91 Broadley 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Earthy forest floor and savory/meaty notes surround this wine's dark plum and cranberry aromas. Bright red cherries dominate the palate, joined by bittersweet chocolate and black coffee flavors. Brisk acidity and firm fine-grained tannins offer able support. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**91 Broadley 2021 Jessica Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Jessica is light and airy, edging toward ethereal territory. There's an earthiness on the nose, along with aromas of red cherries and fresh pine needles. Decent acidity accompanies wild cherry phosphate and bold pu-erh tea flavors. The wine's tannins are silky and its finish long. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$58

**91 Cana's Feast 2022 Libra Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Ascending red apples and raspberries rule the house of aromas, with a waning touch of grilled salmon with dill. The future of the wine's puckering acidity looks bright, with tart raspberry and Irish breakfast tea dominant in the 10th house of flavor. Today's wine horoscope says, "Try this wine with crab cakes." —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$35

**91 David Paige 2021 Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** A deft hand produced a light and lively Pinot Noir filled with aromas of dark raspberries, white chocolate and a touch of cardamom spice. Strawberry and orange zest flavors feel right at home with the wine's brilliant acidity and fresh, clean mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$62

**91 Division 2022 "Deux" Eola Springs Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Things get off to an interesting start with an aromatic combination of dusty cherries and a tart note reminiscent of dill pickles. The wine's boysenberry and gingersnap cookie flavors feel light and tingly on the palate, backed by frisky acidity and soft tannins. A fantastic match with turkey burgers. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$80

**91 Domaine St. Laurent 2021 Block One Pinot Noir (Rogue Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$35

**91 Forager 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The Forager opens with ripe black cherry and rose petal aromas that are accented by touches of violets and cedar. A crisp mouthfeel sparked by elevated acidity enlivens orange marmalade, clove and barbecue tofu flavors. Also, kudos to Forager for the lighter weight recycled glass bottle. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.2% **Price:** \$25

**91 Gothic 2021 Maelstrom Shea Vineyard Pinot Noir (Yamhill-Carlton).** Gothic Maelstrom—what should be the name of death metal band is instead a quite lovely Pinot Noir. A little bit of earth and funk is joined by boysenberry, sandalwood and lemon aromas worthy of a perfume. Cherry pie and rosemary flavors are backed by juicy acidity and silky tannins in this descent into pleasure. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$50

**91 Harper Voit 2019 Filament Vineyard Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** The Filament opens with rich dark chocolate and dried cherry aromas that may trigger hunger pangs. The primary fruit flavor is red cherry, with spicy notes of gingerbread and black pepper. The wine feels full and round in the

mouth, with elevated acidity that is matched with velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$75

**91 Left Coast 2022 Cali's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Van Duzer Corridor).** If acidity was a source of electricity, the Cali Cuvée could light up the entire Willamette Valley. The wine's aromas are distinctly red fruited, with blackcap raspberry and cherry waltzing with a note of earthy/mossy flowering Nicotiana plant. Cranberry and cedar flavors are supported by velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$30

**91 Nicolas-Jay 2021 Nysa Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Aromatically, this is a bowl of sweet raspberries placed next to an earthy/smoky bouquet of poppies, with balsa and talc notes hovering in the background. Blackberry jam, toast and black tea flavors put one in the mood for breakfast. The wine's soft, smooth texture matches with equally gentle acidity and velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$90

**91 Raptor Ridge 2022 Barrel Select Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Ten months in French oak, 15% new, did this Pinot Noir right. The Barrel Select's aromas include a fruity mix of raspberries and Amarena cherries, followed by blackberry and citrus flavors. The 15% whole cluster fermentation adds a bit of structure to accompany the wine's zippy acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$27

**91 Raptor Ridge 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This is a bright and fresh Pinot Noir with beautifully floral lilac and hyacinth aromas. Almost lost among the flowers is the scent of blueberries and strawberry tea. A laser beam of acidity illuminates flavors like tart red cherries, lemon basil and a hint of cedar. Clean, brisk fun. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 Raptor Ridge 2021 Tuscowallame Estate 777 Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Tart red raspberry and blueberry fruit leather aromas, with a touch of wet slate, are almost as mouthwatering as the 777's lively acidity. Then you have the tangy red fruit flavor that is as invigorating as a cherry-flavored drinking vinegar. The wine's sturdy tannins are the equal of its acidity. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**91 Sidereus 2021 La Colina Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Fruit, acidity and tannins are in harmony here, with a silky texture and sense of finesse. Bright red cherries dominate an aromatic set that includes wisps of bittersweet chocolate and chalk dust. The wine's flavor profile replicates those aromas, along with a touch of English breakfast tea. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Sidereus 2021 Winemaker's Cuvée Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** This lighter-bodied cuvée shows a deft touch and a nice balance

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between fruit, energetic acidity and velvety tannins. Blackcap raspberry and strawberry aromas are sandwiched between sweet and savory notes of grilled meat and vanilla. The wine's dominant sour cherry flavor is spiced by a burst of cinnamon. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$60

**91 Sokol Blosser 2021 Blackberry Block Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** Appropriately enough, this wine leads with a pronounced blackberry aroma. It is accompanied by aromas of tomato leaf and orange zest. There are blackberries again on the palate, only this time in the form of earthy blackberry tea, along with notes of cedar and black pepper. There's great acidity here, plus velvety tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$45

**91 Walnut Ridge 2022 Belle Amie Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aromatically, this is an explosion of black cherries and dark chocolate. The cherries are a little brighter on the palate, where they are joined by blood orange soda, cloves and cedar. The wine's tannins are grippy, while the acidity is restrained. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$60

**91 Winderlea 2021 Clos Vernier at Worden Hill Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** At first, the dominant aroma is cherry. With a bit of swirling, boysenberries, chocolate mint and violets take over. This is a wine where you risk getting lost in its perfume. Tart cranberry and orange peel flavors are graced by zingy acidity, velvety tannins and a touch of cedarwood. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$80

**90 Chev 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** A raspberry snow cone aroma collides with bursts of basil and wet pavement. Modest acidity and plush tannins support flavors of spicy chai tea, dark chocolate and cherries. Produced and bottled in Windsor, California, and fermented in stainless steel and concrete, the wine spent 16 months in French oak, 45% new. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$80

**90 Domaine Divio 2021 Legacy of the Pioneers Pinot Noir (Ribbon Ridge).** This is lighter-bodied fare where the acidity shines bright and the tannins feel integrated. Made entirely of estate fruit, the Legacy offers aromas of red cherries and spicy cinnamon. Flavors like cherry cobbler and shots of espresso unite with a silky texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$85

**90 King Estate 2022 Inscription Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 26.  
*Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Samuel Robert 2022 Family Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** The wine's sweet aromas of ripe blueberries and a bouquet of honeysuckle and jasmine flowers is complemented by a burst of balsa wood. Bing cherry and citrus flavors

hit like a wave, followed by bits of black tea and pecans. Great value here. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**90 Sidereus 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This wine's classic red cherry and orange peel aromas unite with an intriguing note that combines allspice and bittersweet chocolate. Expect a lithe and lean mouthfeel to go along with not-quite-ripe blueberry and bay leaf flavors. Jangly acidity accompanies soft tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Smera 2021 Smera Vineyards Pinot Noir (McMinnville).** The wine's bright red cherry and candied pecan aromas make for a nice introduction. There are more cherries in store in terms of flavor, joined by a burst of lemon zest and black tea. The wine's leathery texture and grippy tannins suggest the need for air or patience. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$38

**90 The Four Graces 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 24.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 The Four Graces 2021 Reserve Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** For full review see page 24.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90 Walnut Ridge 2022 Emma Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aged for 10 months in 40% new French oak, this is a Pinot Noir packing some heft. Blueberry, tangerine and violets are joined by a meaty aroma akin to roasted pork. Flavor-wise, Emma is a big bowl of really ripe Bing cherries spiced with nutmeg, clove and balsa wood. There's modest acidity, with muscular tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**90 Winderlea 2021 Imprint Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** This 100% whole cluster fermented wine rested for 18 months in neutral French oak—it was worth the wait. The Imprint's aromas run from black cherries to vanilla-scented candlewax, with bits of challah bread and lemon peel in between. Bracing acidity backs flavors like cranberry, orange pith and marjoram. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$70

**89 Chehalem 2021 Chehalem Estate Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Cherry and cedar aromas pale in comparison to the perfumed bergamot citrus oil note that drifts up from the glass. The wine's acidity is pucker inducing, with not-quite-ripe red raspberry and lemonade flavors zipping across the brisk palate. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$50

**89 Conscious by Samuel Robert 2022 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This light and nimble Pinot Noir is one heck of a great value at \$16. The wine's aromas of smoked cherries and lemon-flavored mineral water are joined by a rather complex layer of ripe cherry, nutmeg, clove and blood orange tea. While

the tannins are soft, the elevated acidity steals the show. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**89 Harper Voit 2019 Strandline Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A fruit and mineral aromatic set featuring blueberries and wet modeling clay is the Strandline's opening foray. Searing acidity and a crisp mouthfeel are perfect fits for a tart cranberry-raspberry fruit combination, with a wall of pine bark in the background. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$50

**89 Second Growth 2021 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Light-bodied, with plush tannins and mild acidity, this is a smooth textured, easy-sipping Pinot Noir. Not-quite-ripe boysenberry and strawberry aromas are joined by traces of sea breeze salinity and orange peel. Smoked cherry and nutmeg flavors unite with a healthy dose of balsa wood. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$20

**89 Stoller 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** A dusty black cherry aroma dominates faint traces of earthy oregano and citrus. Invigorating acidity overshadows silky tannins at the moment, with blackberry and walnut flavors joined by notes of dark chocolate, green tea and lemon. Great value. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**89 Walnut Ridge 2022 Mystère Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This young wine offers a tart raspberry aroma that is nearly swamped by earthy notes of oregano, straw and pine needles. A simple dark chocolate-covered cherry flavor is joined by white tea and citrus. The Mystère's soft and supple texture is pleasing, but more acidity would have been welcome. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$50

**89 Winderlea 2021 Weber Vineyard Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The wine's raspberry and aged balsamic vinegar aromas are a nice start, followed by tart red cherry, white tea, orange zest and maple syrup flavors. This is lighter-bodied fare, with a wispy mouthfeel, restrained acidity and wispy plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$70

**88 Gothic 2021 Nevermore Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Nevermore opens with a sweet floral note similar to sweet pea flowers and lavender. Then a wall of raspberry and strawberry fruit scents hit like a rogue wave. Blackberry, blueberry and dark chocolate flavors are joined by cedar and a touch of grilled meat. Plush tannins and soft acidity are well-matched. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$24

**88 ReEntrant 2022 Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** Aromatically, an earthiness here combines blackberry tea, freshly turned soil and wood smoke. Growing up from that earth is the sweet, powdery scent of violets. The wine's fruit is a tangy red raspberry-red cherry combination with black



tea and lemon, backed by brisk acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$25

**88 Sidereus 2021 Pommard Single Clone Pinot Noir (Laurelwood District).** Briary raspberry and green-woody pomegranate seed aromas are accompanied by notes of dark chocolate and damp cedar bark. The wine's acidity is nice and bright, but the tannins feel fully integrated already. Dried cherry and banana chip flavors are matched with a tangy note similar to rice wine vinegar. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$40

**88 Sokol Blosser 2021 Blossom Ridge Pinot Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** Cherry, chocolate and pine needle aromas open the action, followed by dried cranberry and crushed walnut flavors that suggest a bowl of granola. There's some nice acidity here, but tannins are soft and the wine's mouthfeel thin. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$45

**88 Stoller 2022 Estate Pinot Noir (Dundee Hills).** The wine's pronounced boysenberry aroma is flanked by a wee savory-smoky note similar to sliced pastrami. Tart red cherry and lemon zest flavors, with an iron note lurking in the background, dominate the creamy textured palate, backed by soft acidity and plush tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**88 Twin Suns 2021 Horizon Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** This kosher treat leads with aromas of boysenberries and violets, along with large amounts of cedar. Aged in new and neutral American oak for 15 months, the Horizon features grippy tannins and restrained acidity and tastes like crushed walnuts and a blackberry scone served with a cup of strong English breakfast tea. Kosher. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$80

**87 Aeris 2021 Pinot Noir (Oregon).** This light and airy Pinot Noir hangs its hat on the kind of acidity that could snap a bear out of hibernation. A tight ball of cherries is surrounded by a savory aromatic tornado of seared steak and grilled portobello mushrooms. A peppery lime flavor eclipses faint cherry and white tea notes. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$16

**86 Second Growth 2021 Pinot Noir (Chehalem Mountains).** The wine's tannins feel fully integrated, while its acidity is as soft as a silk sheet. Dark raspberry and fig aromas are restrained, with accompanying notes of leather and campfire smoke. Plum and dark chocolate flavors are almost overwhelmed by an earthy-savory note akin to sautéed mushrooms. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

## GAMAY NOIR

**93 Division 2022 Lutte Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley).** An aromatic cloud of dark cherries and sage smudge hovers above leather and sweet freshly cut hay notes. The flavors are just as compelling, with boysenberry and tart cherry flavors duking it out with black tea and bone broth. The Lutte's fresh mouthfeel and zippy acidity are mere bonuses. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$30

**90 Walnut Ridge 2022 Gamay Noir (Willamette Valley).** You get your recommended daily allowance of tangy and chewy with this combination of pronounced acidity and grippy tannins. Aromatically, it's all about the red cherries and apple-sauce, with a trace of dried oak leaves. Cranberry and espresso flavors are joined by a woody note reminiscent of a cherry popsicle stick. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$30

**89 Division 2022 Gamay Cru Methven Vineyard Gamay Noir (Eola-Amity Hills).** After spending eight months in neutral French oak, this is a light and bright take on Gamay Noir. Fruit is faint on the nose, but red apple and strawberry notes are joined by roasted pork loin, black pepper and mace aromas. Bright red cherry and lemon pith flavors feel a bit thin but are spiced up by a touch of clove. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.7% **Price:** \$39

## SYRAH

**95 Sleight of Hand 2021 Spiders from Mars Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This is a 100% whole-cluster showstopper. Just like the real-life Spiders from Mars, the wine's firm tannins replicate Trevor Bolder's thumping bass beat while electrified acidity mimics a Mick Ronson guitar riff. Aromas and flavors of blackberries, mocha, wet basalt and allspice fill the arena. I can't wait for the encore. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$125

**95 Sleight of Hand 2021 The Funkadelic Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** The Funkadelic provides the full power and light show. The wine's ripe blackberry and loamy soil aromas are joined by lesser amounts of lilac flowers and seared steak. Powerful fine-grained tannins envelop rich boysenberry pie and espresso flavors. The Funkadelic's acidity is as bright as its future. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$75

**94 Sleight of Hand 2021 The Psychedelic Stoney Vine Vineyard Syrah (The Rocks District of Milton-Freewater).** Tart boysenberry and leather aromas in no way prepare you for the wave of fruit that engulfs the palate. Sweet black cherries and meaty brisket flavors hit first, followed by a salad of peaches, blackcap raspberries and red apples. Hold-

ing it all together is a sturdy tannic frame and crisp acidity. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$75

**92 Sweet Cheeks 2019 Serra Vineyard Syrah (Applegate Valley).** This humdinger of a Syrah leads with ripe blackcap raspberry and freshly turned earth aromas. Wisps of dark chocolate and vanilla bean float in the background. Flavors like boysenberry, sage and espresso are backed by silky tannins and lemon-drenched acidity. The wine's crisp texture is merely a bonus. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$42

## OTHER RED WINES

**92 Long Walk 2022 Long Walk Vineyard Zinfandel (Rogue Valley).** If you love black fruit, you've come to the right wine. Aromas and flavors of blackberry, dark plum and blackcap raspberries abound with this Zinfandel. There's also a nice bit of saline, clove and orange zest for added interest. While the wine's acidity is restrained, its tannins are not. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

**90 Sidereus 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This is a medium-bodied treat with balance and a slippery mouthfeel. Blueberry and fresh clove aromas math up with a savory note similar to salmon grilling over a cedar wood fire. The wine's peach and cherry crumble flavors are complemented by a black tea note. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**89 Long Walk 2022 Long Walk Vineyard Caringane (Rogue Valley).** Bing cherry and glazed ham aromas are quite a festive treat. Hovering in the background is a faint vanilla scent. Cranberry fruit leather and strawberry flavors are backed by puckering acidity and tannins that tip-toe up to astringent territory. This is a really young wine that may require a bit of air. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$40

## RED BLENDS

**93 Raptor Ridge 2022 Passetoutgrain Pinot Noir-Gamay (Willamette Valley).** This cofermented blend of 59% Pinot Noir and 41% Gamay Noir saw 10 months in oak, 0% new. It offers fresh, floral blackcap raspberry and lilac aromas, flanked by a touch of crushed pistachios. The wine's black cherry and black tea flavors are spiced by cardamom. Bright acidity and velvety tannins are equally matched. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**92 Tekstura 2022 Pinorriño Redford-Wetle Vineyard Red Blend (Eola-Amity Hills).** I named this wine "k.d. lang," because it is absolute torch and twang. The blend of 85% Pinot Noir and 15% Albariño leads with lavender, loamy soil and black-

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cap raspberry aromas. Then it hits with laser beam acidity and blueberry, almond biscotti, orange pekoe tea and lemon flavors. Pinoriño—ask for it by name. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$55

**91** **Domaine Divio 2021 Passetoutgrain Gamay Noir-Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley).** For full review see page 20.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$32

**90** **Franchere 2022 Cascadia Red Blend (Willamette Valley).** The wine's alcohol, tannins and body might be on the light side, but its acidity could double as a one million candlepower light-house. Aromas of black cherries, blueberries, earth and crushed brick dust lead to flavors like cranberry ice and orange pith. See "tangy" in the dictionary. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.8% **Price:** \$24

**90** **Long Walk 2022 Field Notes Long Walk Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Rogue Valley).** This Syrah-driven blend offers an intriguing aromatic combination of blackberry pie and barbecue tofu. Blazing acidity and sturdy tannins offer ample support for copious amounts of blackberry and boysenberry fruit flavors. Tiny bits of balsam wood and earthy oregano hover in the background. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**90** **Walnut Ridge 2022 La Petite Fête Pinot Noir-Gamay (Willamette Valley).** Tucked away in the nested Lower Long Tom AVA, Walnut Ridge has a snappy take on passetoutgrain. The wine's savory nose features baked apple and cinnamon aromas, plus a hint of bacon. Sour Bing cherry and orange pekoe tea flavors are supported by soft tannins and energetic acidity. Pour a glass with a creamy mushroom soup. *Hidden Gem.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

## WASHINGTON CHARDONNAY

**92** **Pursued by Bear 2022 Twin Bear Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** This new Chardonnay is my favorite bear pair since Yogi and Boo-Boo. The tangy wine offers pear and apple aromas that are flanked by bits of spearmint and mango. A silky mouthfeel is joined by bright acidity and flavors like peach Melba, pistachios and a trace of grapefruit. Stick a bottle in your next "pic-a-nic" basket and head to Jellystone Park. —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$40

**90** **Boomtown 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** This is a nice Chardonnay for a nice price. The nose is filled with apricots, toasted hazelnuts, freshly cut grass and a hint of wet pavement. The wine's mouthwatering acidity escorts peach, ginger and not-too-tart grapefruit flavors. It's nicely balanced, with a smooth, glossy mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$19

**89** **Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** This is a medium-bodied Chardonnay that initially charms with aromas of lemon curd, muskmelon, hyacinth and freshly cut grass. A creamy palate and soft acidity escort flavors like lime sorbet with toasted almonds and butter. I'd like to try this wine with a spicy chicken sandwich. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$24

**89** **Mark Ryan 2022 Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley).** The wine's lemon drop hard candy, honeycomb and melting candlewax aromas are a great start. Poached pear and lemon curd flavors dominate the creamy palate, flecked by Tahitian vanilla bean. A touch more acidity would have been welcome. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$48

**89** **Waterbrook 2022 Chardonnay (Columbia Valley).** This lighter Chardonnay with 4% Viognier blended in begins with aromas of peach, rainwater, lime zest and freshly cut grass. A crisp, lean texture and zippy acidity join with lemon and toffee-coated almond flavors to create a pleasant drinking experience. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**88** **Dusted Valley 2022 Olsen Vineyard Chardonnay (Yakima Valley).** The wine's aromatic combo of cantaloupe and lemon-scented French laundry powder is nice and fresh. A wave of pear, sweet cherry and ripe peach flavors needs a bit more acidity to keep up. I might try this with a savory dish that is both spicy and hot. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$37

**87** **Canoe Ridge 2022 Expedition Chardonnay (Horse Heaven Hills).** The Expedition's aromas are a tropical paradise of pineapple, coconut and a touch of ripe banana. Soft acidity and a creamy texture are accompanied by pineapple upside-down cake, butter and macadamia nut flavors. This wine might be just the thing with roasted acorn squash soup. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**92** **Dusted Valley 2022 Olsen Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** This aromatic salad mixes crushed kale drizzled in olive oil with notes of lemon, pine nuts and chunks of green apple. Next comes farro salad, lemon vinaigrette and grilled halibut flavors that make a beautiful team. What a refreshing Mediterranean-style treat! *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$36

**89** **Slo Down 2022 SLO Jams Sauvignon Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills).** A tropical wave of pineapple, shredded coconut and lime aromas kicks off this beach. This stainless steel-fermented Sauvignon Blanc has some weight to accompany frisky acidity and flavors like lemon curd, Golden Deli-

cious apple and white grapefruit. Cue the limbo music. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$21

**88** **Enodav 2021 Guadalupe Sauvignon Blanc (Yakima Valley).** A tropical combination of lemon and banana is joined by an earthy straw-like note. There's more citrus on the palate, with lime pith and lemon flanked by touches of coconut water and walnuts. The wine's acidity is modest, with a light and airy mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$55

**86** **Boomtown 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Columbia Valley).** The classic tart and flowery gooseberry aroma is accented by notes of guava, cotton candy and capsicum. The acidity is as modest as the alcohol, with a thin mouthfeel and a grapefruit and lemon-lime flavor combination reminiscent of an icy glass of Squirt. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$19

## RIESLING

**91** **Enodav 2022 Vines of Guadalupe Vineyard Riesling (Yakima Valley).** Lemon and yellow apple aromas fill the nose, along with notes of honeysuckle and freshly cut grass. Golden raisin, apple and lime zest flavors are spotlighted by mouthwatering acidity. The wine's texture is clean and fresh, with a mild petrol note developing on the finish. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$22

**90** **Charles Smith 2022 Kung Fu Girl Riesling (Washington).** The Kung Fu Girl front kicks with aromas of pineapple, peach and lemon verbena. Then its flavors of peach sorbet and tangerine pith hit you with a *ding guek* kick to the solar plexus. Submission is inevitable. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**89** **Washington Hills 2022 Dry Riesling (Washington).** This is an interesting take, with 6% Roussanne and 4% Muscat added to the mix. A pronounced wet slate aroma is joined by dollops of pineapple, coconut and pine. The wine's slick and slippery texture guides flavors like peach, hazelnut and lemon drop hard candy. Dry, but not bone-dry. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$15

**87** **Lujon 2022 Riesling (Columbia Valley).** A distinctive limoncello-like aroma is counterpointed by wet slate and an earthy, slightly sweet mustard seed note. Soft acidity and a creamy texture go with flavors like nectarine, saline, warm tortilla and sencha tea with a dollop of sugar. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 10.75% **Price:** \$12

**87** **Washington Hills 2022 Riesling (Washington).** Low in acidity but packed with fruit flavor, this wine makes for an easy sipper. Overripe peach and freshly cut grass aromas lead to limeade, coconut and peach sorbet flavors. The palate is

smooth and round, with a touch of lavender on the finish. Pair with an egg sandwich on a back porch. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 11.9% **Price:** \$14

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**91 Desert Wind 2022 Lawrence Vineyards Albariño (Royal Slope).** After spending just six months in stainless steel, this crisp white leads with aromas like lemon zest, almond extract, wet slate and honeysuckle. A beacon of bright acidity beckons you to enjoy flavors of lemon and lime and an orange olive oil cake note that will tame hunger pangs. Try with fresh goat cheese and a Wes Anderson flick. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$32

**91 Kiona 2022 Old Vine Chenin Blanc (Columbia Valley).** It is unbelievable to me that this Chenin Blanc, fermented in a combination of stainless steel, amphora and French oak, costs \$19. It has bit of body to accompany voltaic acidity and aromas and flavors of melon, cotton candy, almonds, lemon and coconut water. The dry wine positively floats on the palate. Sip with Yaquina Bay oysters while listening to Kate Bush records. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$19

**90 Boomtown 2022 Pinot Gris (Columbia Valley).** Crisp, peppery acidity are this wine's calling cards. It smells like fresh laundry, washed with lemon-lavender French laundry powder, drying on the line. Thyme and sesame seed scents add interest. The wine closes with lemon verbena tea, thyme and rosemary flavors. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$19

**90 Gordon Estate 2022 Whole Cluster Ferment Gewürztraminer (Columbia Valley).** Classic aromas of spicy lychee fruit and rose water fill the air with every swirl of the glass. This is a dry and crisp-textured wine with pleasant acidity and flavors like candied pink grapefruit peels, olive oil and a handful of pistachios. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$35

**89 Eternal 2019 Eternal Patience Roussanne (Columbia Valley).** Made entirely with fruit from Otis Vineyard, this Roussanne rested in French oak for nearly two years. The aromas are a heady mix of mango chutney, preserved lemon, honeysuckle and tamarind. Peach and sticky rice flavors dominate a surprisingly light-bodied palate, joined by modest acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$39

**89 McKinley Springs 2022 Chenin Blanc (Horse Heaven Hills).** For full review see page 24.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$26

**88 Cana's Feast 2022 Pinot Grigio (Columbia Valley).** I have to confess that this wine's aromas had me guessing Sauvignon Blanc in the blind tasting. It smells like freshly cut grass, guava

and wet chalk. The wine's peach and lime zest flavors were balanced by crisp acidity. I'd be happy to serve this with fresh goat cheese, a baguette and a blanket. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 12.1% **Price:** \$18

**88 Eternal 2022 Eternal Lust Albariño (Yakima Valley).** The wine's fruit cup-like aromas of really ripe pineapple and Mandarin orange chunks lead you to believe something sweet is on its way. Then, in a complete gear shift, you get hit with tart red cherry, not-quite-ripe Bosc pear and saline flavors. A smooth sipping texture goes hand in hand with soft acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$34

## SPARKLING WINES

**92 Division 2022 Polka Dots Sparkling Carousel Vineyard Gamay Noir (Columbia Valley).** The good folks at Division are quite adept at using the *méthode ancestrale* to deliver delicious wines packing frisky bubbles. This particular *pétillant-naturel* is a 100% Gamay Noir with righteous grilled peach and jamón aromas. The Polka Dots' pink grapefruit and lemon seltzer flavors fit perfectly with its dazzling acidity. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**91 Dusted Valley 2020 Falx Blanc de Noir Breezy Slope Vineyard Sparkling Wine Pinot Noir (Walla Walla Valley).** A Pinot Noir from Walla Walla Valley is rare enough. But sparkling? Heck, yeah! The fun begins with an aromatic combination of earthy blackberry tea, oatcakes and a wee bit of talc. The wine's flavors are layers of warm, yeasty brioche, apples, cherries, chai spices, lemon zest and wet slate. Talk about complex. **Hidden Gem.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$65

## ROSÉ

**89 Gordon Estate 2022 Syrah Rosé (Columbia Valley).** This stainless steel-fermented rosé of Syrah is packed with aromas and flavors of melon, peach, cinnamon and ginger. There's some body here, with soft acidity and touches of basil and citrus on the finish. Cue the yacht rock. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**94 Mark Ryan 2021 Dead Horse Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** For full review see page 8 **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$70

**94 Mark Ryan 2021 The Dissident Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 8. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**93 Arenness Cellars 2019 Les Collines Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** Imagine a bowl of vanilla gelato topped with blackberries and a handful of violets. That is the aromatic combination that greeted my first sniff from the glass. A pronounced black cherry fruit highlights the palate, tempered by traces of lemon zest, bitter-sweet dark chocolate and shaved coconut. Try this wine with a steak sandwich and any John Coltrane record. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$44

**93 Auclair 2021 Old Vines Kiona Vineyard 1976 Block Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** What a roller coaster of aromas and flavors. The ride begins with raspberry, freshly baked rye bread and peppery pickled daikon aromas. Muscular tannins provide a nice frame for rich blackberry jam, tangy raspberry-flavored kombucha and espresso flavors. Try this wine with blackened catfish. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$75

**93 Fielding Hills 2020 Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope).** Plush tannins and soft acidity beckon you to dive in to enjoy ripe, concentrated flavors of black cherries, dark chocolate and a touch of cedar. The wine's aromas are similar, with black cherries and cedar joined by notes of earth and lavender. This hedonistic treat might pair nicely with a juicy lamb burger. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$50

**92 Arenness Cellars 2020 Klipsun Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Red Mountain).** This is an elegant Cabernet Sauvignon with restrained alcohol, bouncy acidity and velvety tannins. Its silky texture frames blueberry sorbet and balsa wood flavors, along with a spicy note that makes your lips tingle as though they've been in contact with nutmeg. Bing cherry and cedar chest aromas are joined by a touch of bacon fat. So good. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$48

**92 Lydian 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** An interesting aromatic combination of Damson plums, daisies and bacon fat leads into ripe strawberry and red apple flavors. Floating in the background is a chilled cucumber flavor similar to some white teas. This medium-bodied wine with velvety tannins represents good value. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$25

**91 Arenness Cellars 2020 "su\_m" Les Collines Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Walla Walla Valley).** This medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon captivates with its aromas of sweet blackberries, grilled portobellos, fresh rose petals and a vanilla bean scone. The wine's blackberry and black currant flavors blend with touches of thyme, clove and dark chocolate, all backed by muscular tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$48



**91 Charles & Charles 2021 Bolt Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 25. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$15

**91 Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** This burly reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, with 12.5% each of Malbec and Cabernet Franc, is ageworthy. Grippy tannins and electric acidity collide over black cherry, prosciutto and balsa wood flavors. The wine's dark raspberry and graphite aromas meld with floral notes of sweet pea flowers and violets. Drink now—2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**91 King Estate 2019 The Soldier Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 21.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Boomtown 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Blackberry, leather and cumin aromas are accented by a trace of spicy, earthy blackened catfish. Blackberry, blueberry, cocoa and maple hard candy flavors are backed by massive, leathery tannins. The acidity is the only thing shy about this wine. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**90 Pendulum 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Take your time swirling your glass and this wine will reward you with aromas like red currants, blackberries and yellow cake batter. Black cherry, orange peel, cranberry, fennel and cedar flavors are supported by firm tannins and lemony acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$20

**89 McKinley Springs 2021 Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (Horse Heaven Hills).** This is a powerful Cabernet Sauvignon that spent 18 months in French oak, 50% new. Ripe blueberry and boysenberry aromas fill the air with every glass, while flavors of black cherry, cedar and nutmeg coat the palate. The wine's fine-grained tannins and nervy acidity are a fine combination. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 Waterbrook 2021 Golden Valley Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The wine's sweet-sour aromatic fruit combination of blueberry sorbet and pie cherries is memorable. Additional scents of cedar chest drawers, violets and wet slate add interest. Rich blackberry, pumpkin seed oil, coconut and aged balsamic flavors are supported by chewy tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$30

**88 Desert Wind 2019 Desert Wind Estate Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Wahluke Slope).** What a spanking good bottle of wine for \$18. It is 83% Cabernet Sauvignon, with 11% Merlot and 6% Syrah that spent 19 months in neutral oak. The wine offers aromas of blueberries and cigar box to go along with a wee bit of cinnamon. Zingy acidity

supports flavors like dried blueberries and ginger-snaps. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Second Growth 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The chocolate of a Tootsie Pop joins forces with aromatic colleagues campfire smoke, cherry pie and a bit of orange peel. Those aromas basically repeat as flavors, with dark chocolate-coated cherries coated colliding with coconut and cedar. Soft acidity is overshadowed by chewy tannins. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$17

**86 Waterbrook 2021 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** The wine's blackberry and vanilla aromas are accented by bits of balsa wood and an herbal note similar to lemon verbena tea. The flavors are a sweet combination of black cherry Jell-O and caramel crème. It's light-bodied, with a thin mouthfeel, velvety tannins and the threat of acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$26

## MALBEC

**92 Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Malbec (Columbia Valley).** A beautiful perfume of blueberries, jasmine and orange zest greets the nose. Blueberries return as a fruit flavor, along with bittersweet chocolate and clove spice. The wine's mouthfeel is fresh and clean, with a nice balance between crisp acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**90 Auclair 2021 Sunset Ridge Vineyard Malbec (Red Mountain).** What a delightful combination of aromas to wrap one's head around—strawberry and rosemary scents that are joined by wisps of orange peel and chalk reminiscent of a chewable vitamin. The medium-bodied Malbec's flavors of cherry sorbet and espresso shots are backed by slightly elevated acidity and supple tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Fielding Hills 2020 Riverbend Vineyard Malbec (Wahluke Slope).** An aromatic mix of blueberry pie, strawberry and vanilla bean makes for a nice dessert-like introduction. The wine tastes like a blueberry scone with chunks of ginger, with integrated tannins and surprisingly tangy acidity. An even bigger surprise—no perceptible heat given the 16.1% abv. —M.A.  
**abv:** 16.1% **Price:** \$48

**89 Kiona 2019 Estate Bottled Malbec (Red Mountain).** This wine has the prettiest nose this side of Samantha Stephens. Sweet floral aromas of sweet pea flowers and freesia are joined by a winning combination of red cherries and sugar cookies. Cherry, lemon and white tea flavors are supported by soft acidity and integrated tannins. The wine's texture is lean and clean. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$34

**89 Waterbrook 2021 Reserve Malbec (Columbia Valley).** A boysenberry and burlap aromatic combination is accented by a puff of vanilla-flavored pipe tobacco smoke. There is but one primary flavor here and it is a sweet black cherry note that reminds me of old-fashioned Dum-Dums lollipops. Soft acidity and silky tannins make for a creamy texture. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$26

## MERLOT

**95 Mark Ryan 2021 Little Sister Merlot (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 5. *Editors' Choice.*  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$90

**94 Auclair 2021 Old Vines Kiona Vineyard 1976 Block Merlot (Red Mountain).** This dazzling Merlot has it all, from great fruit and restrained alcohol to lively acidity and silky tannins. Cassis and a cup of coffee kick off an aromatic show that also includes sweet pea flowers and a tart citrus note. Blackberry, espresso and orange flavors glide along a smooth texture, taunting that "Sideways" flick. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$65

**92 Fielding Hills 2020 Riverbend Vineyard Merlot (Wahluke Slope).** This estate Merlot also contains 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Syrah. Blueberry and anise aromas drift from the glass, followed by flavors like smoked almonds and blueberry jam laced with thyme. The medium-bodied wine displays soft tannins, but lemony acidity helps to balance the fruit. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$40

**91 Waterbrook 2021 Golden Valley Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This is a really pretty and balanced Merlot with a crisp texture guaranteed to revive tired palates. The wine's aromas of blackberries and hibiscus flower tea are followed by dark plum and mocha latte flavors. Silky tannins join in with lively acidity. Pour it with a grilled cheese-and-ham sandwich. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$30

**90 Waterbrook 2021 Icon Merlot (Walla Walla Valley).** Blackcap raspberry and lilac aromas are spiced up by a burst of cinnamon. Elevated acidity is matched by strong black tea-like tannins, with nectarines joining flavors of Bing cherries and black olives. The somewhat abrupt finish features a trace of lemony citrus. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$45

**89 Boomtown 2021 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Here's a compelling aromatic combination of blueberry sorbet and what I imagine a freshly-filled inkwell would smell like—black with a touch of salinity. The fruit is darker on the palate, with sweet black currants counterpointed by the tang of a chilled orange slice. Surprisingly brawny tannins outmuscle modest acidity. *Best Buy.* —M.A.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$19

**89 Longship 2020 Magic Elephant Mountain Vineyard Merlot (Rattlesnake Hills).** This Merlot feels surprisingly light on the palate, with ripe boysenberries and blueberries holding court with flavors of cinnamon and cedar. Sturdy tannins and elevated acidity provide a nice sense of balance. The wine's nose is spiced by cardamom that is joined by mulberries, violets and more cedar. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**89 Waterbrook 2021 Reserve Merlot (Columbia Valley).** Smoked blueberries and brisket make for perfect aromatic partners, with bits of dark chocolate and rosemary. This is a nicely balanced Merlot, with weight, elevated acidity and brawny tannins. The flavors are an interesting mix of sweet cherry, citrus and tahini. This wine rocks with a pita slathered with hummus and roasted vegetables. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$26

**88 Charles Smith 2021 Velvet Devil Merlot (Washington).** The 2021 vintage of everybody's favorite Halloween party pour is surprisingly light and nimble. It leads with aromas of tart red fruit and pie crust aromas that give the impression of a cherry turnover. The flavors are a combination of blueberries, maple candy and applewood smoked bacon. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.6% **Price:** \$15

**87 Sagelands 2021 Merlot (Columbia Valley).** This Merlot's fresh boysenberry and red apple aromas are graced by tiny violets and chalk dust wisps. This is a medium-bodied Merlot in which drying tannins outmatch the wine's faint acidity. A sour red cherry flavor dominates the palate, joined by traces of caramel and dark chocolate. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

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## SYRAH

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**97 Sleight of Hand 2021 Off He Goes Les Colines Vineyard Syrah (Walla Walla Valley).** This wondrous Syrah is the winemaker's tribute to a departed friend and colleague. It is a fitting tribute filled with blackberry, blueberry fruit leather, roasted pork shoulder and thyme aromas that build and build. Blueberry gelato, wet slate and orange pipe tobacco flavors bump against massive tannins and lemony acidity. Drink now–2034. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$75

**94 Mark Ryan 2021 Wild Eyed Syrah (Red Mountain).** For full review see page 8. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$50

**93 Liminal 2021 Block 16 Highlight Series Weather Eye Vineyard Syrah (Columbia Valley).** The Block 16's crushed Himalayan blackberry and cedar aromas intertwine with a chocolate and

caramel note worthy of a Storck Riesen candy. Black cherry and burnt sugar flavors are like an elegant dessert. The wine's muscular tannins are matched by a bit of acidity. Drink now–2032. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$70

**93 Sleight of Hand 2021 Levitation Syrah (Columbia Valley).** The tangiest boysenberry aroma ever highlights an aromatic set that includes wisps of rosemary, lemon and crushed brick dust. Fine-grained tannins and snappy acidity back flavors like cherry pie, roasted pork shoulder and black pepper. Make the Levitation disappear with a steak and fries. Drink now–2034. **Cellar Selection.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$55

**92 Gordon Estate 2021 Mega Red Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This Syrah with 5% Petite Sirah smells like boysenberry jam slathered on a warm cinnamon scone—it is an irresistible combination. The rich, fleshy palate, with its restrained acidity and integrated tannins, is a showcase for flavors like lemon, nutmeg and a raspberry Linzer torte. Big-time yum. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 McKinley Springs 2022 Estate Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** For full review see page 18. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91 Enodav 2020 Syrah (Yakima Valley).** This lighter-bodied Syrah kicks off with blackberries and cigar box cedar, followed by bursts of violets and a starchy sweet potato hash brown note. Black cherry and unripe blueberry flavors are graced by bits of orange and lemon verbena tea. The wine's acidity is juicy and tannins soft. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.4% **Price:** \$39

**91 Gordon Estate 2021 Hands-On Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This single barrel of Syrah is a cornucopia of fruited delights. The aromatic show begins with ripe blueberries punctuated by clove and the butterscotch quality of toasted oats. Flavors of blackberry jam, orange zest and Genoa salami go hand in hand with plush tannins and soft acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$60

**91 Longship 2021 Ginger Man Phinny Hill Vineyard Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** After 21 months in French oak, 40% new, the easy-drinking Ginger Man is ready to get out and make friends. Aromas of Bing cherries encrusted with bittersweet dark chocolate swirl about notes of crushed walnuts and white pepper. The flavor profile is dominated by cherries and citrus, with lively acidity and fine-grained tannins providing support. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**90 Fielding Hills 2020 Riverbend Vineyard Syrah (Wahluke Slope).** Blackberries and a chocolate note similar to Cocoa Puffs cereal unite

with aromas of a cedar chest of drawers and black pepper. The wine's flavors of dried black cherries and blackberry tea are joined by a yeasty black rye bread note. This is a lighter-bodied wine displaying modest tannins and elevated acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$42

**89 Boomtown 2021 Syrah (Columbia Valley).** This full-throttle Syrah features a battle between boysenberries and blueberries for aromatic supremacy. Scents of Grape Nuts cereal and a melting beeswax candle root them on. A tart boysenberry flavor is matched by equal amounts of walnuts, a woody quality similar to popsicle sticks and grippy tannins. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$19

**88 Charles Smith 2021 Boom Boom Syrah (Washington).** Marionberries and roasted pork shoulder aromas, with hints of fennel and sweet pea flowers, are a meal unto themselves. Stiff tannins and a lightning bolt of acidity provide able support for copious amounts of smoked black cherries, blood orange soda and clove. There's only the faintest bit of heat here. **Best Buy.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 15.2% **Price:** \$15

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## OTHER RED WINES

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**93 Enodav 2021 Carthage Vineyard Grenache (Yakima Valley).** For full review see page 12. **Editors' Choice.**  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$35

**93 Mark Ryan 2021 Crazy Mary Mourvèdre (Red Mountain).** Mary is crazy like a fox. She knows few can resist aromas like blackberries, vanilla frosting and extinguished wax birthday candle. Then, to keep your hungry attention, she whips up flavors like marionberry pie and an earthy puff of marjoram. The wine's mouthfeel is viscous and pleasing. —M.A.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$65

**93 Sleight of Hand 2021 The Sorceress Reserve Grenache (Yakima Valley).** There's nothing reserved about this Sorceress. Hedonistic aromas of Bing cherries, molasses and a savory note similar to roasted bone marrow spread on toast points capture the imagination. Red fruit reappears on the palate in the form of strawberries and raspberries, with additional flavors of basil and green tea. Enjoy with any Eartha Kitt album. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$55

**92 Cavatappi 2020 Maddalena Nebbiolo (Yakima Valley).** A wonderfully tart raspberry-cherry combination joins with notes of leather, dried rose petals and pipe tobacco in a perfect union. Cranberry-raspberry and orange pith flavors are teasingly tart, with touches of seared steak and anise on the finish. Revel in Maddalena's searing acidity and sturdy tannins. **Editors' Choice.** —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$45

**91 Enodav 2021 Wheatfield Vines Sangiovese (Walla Walla Valley).** Red cherry and thyme aromas merge with a starchy note similar to a sweet potato casserole. The wine's tart red raspberry and cherry flavors dominate lesser flavors of marjoram and cedar. A lean, crisp mouthfeel and zippy acidity are invigorating. Pair it with a bowl of ragù-topped polenta. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$42

**91 Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Petit Verdot (Columbia Valley).** The wine's boysenberry and bittersweet chocolate aromas meld with notes of sweet pea flowers and violets. A trace of talc floats in the background. Sturdy tannins and surprisingly elevated acidity combine with rich black cherry compote, blueberry and maple candy flavors, along with the spice of star anise. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$35

**90 Dusted Valley 2021 Barrel Thief Stone Tree Vineyard Primitivo (Wahluke Slope).** This 80-20 Primitivo-Petite Sirah mix is a new wine for Dusted Valley. The wine's smoked black cherry aromas are matched with notes of muddled mint and worn leather. Flavors like blackberries and balsa wood slide across the wine's smooth, silky texture. Velvety tannins and spiky acidity abide. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**90 Fielding Hills 2020 Riverbend Vineyard Cabernet Franc (Wahluke Slope).** Aromas of raspberries and Meyer lemon-scented soap come across as fresh and lively. That theme continues with flavors like tart cherries, grated ginger, black coffee and graham crackers. This is light-bodied fare, with bright acidity and silky tannins. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$42

**90 Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Petite Sirah (Columbia Valley).** The sweet scents of hyacinth, ripe blackberries and violets are complemented by notes of bacon fat, thyme and the salinity of a fresh maritime breeze. The plate is slick and slippery, with lots of raspberry, orange and red fig fruit flavors. The wine's bright acidity provides a sense of balance. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$35

**90 Longship 2021 Mr Shuffle Sugarloaf Vineyard Carmenere (Yakima Valley).** Rich blackberry and loamy soil aromas are accented by tangy notes of lime zest and Thai basil. A jammy blackberry-blueberry flavor dominates the palate, joined by bits of balsa wood and seared steak. Medium-bodied, it boasts velvety tannins and soft acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**88 Kiona 2021 Estate Bottled Lemberger (Red Mountain).** The wine's aromas of raspberry lip balm, peaches and cinnamon are quite mesmerizing. The red apple, maple hard candy and plums are backed by modest acidity and plush tannins. This is light-bodied fare, with a wispy mouthfeel. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

**87 Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Cabernet Franc (Columbia Valley).** Tangy boysenberry, citrus and roasted pecan aromas make for a nice introduction to this reserve Cabernet Franc that includes 12% Malbec. Dark cherry and saline flavors are restrained, with the wine's body so light it feels like it is floating. A tiny tannic English Breakfast tea note hovers in the background. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$35

## RED BLENDS

**93 Longship 2021 Pet Cheetah Grenache-Syrah (Horse Heaven Hills).** The Pet Cheetah gets off to a fast start with a dusty black fruit aroma that suggests picking blackberries at the side of a country road. The fruit is lighter on the palate, with cherry and orange cake flavors mixing with a melon-like note similar to some white teas. With soft acidity and velvety tannins, the wine has a sense of balance. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$40

**93 Mark Ryan 2021 Lucia Rose Petit Verdot-Cabernet Sauvignon (Columbia Valley).** Boysenberry and graphite aromas kick it off for this full-bodied 81% Petit Verdot and 19% Cabernet Sauvignon blend, with accompanying wisps of Douglas fir bark and vanilla. Rich cassis and mocha flavors are accompanied by bits of rosemary and freshly grated nutmeg. Tannins provide firm structure, with ample acidity. —M.A.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$60

**93 Mark Ryan 2021 Monkey Wrench Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** For full review see page 13.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35

**92 Auclair 2021 Left Blend Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain).** This 50% Cabernet Sauvignon, 40% Cabernet Franc and 10% Merlot blend opens with a burst of blackberry and black cherry fruit aromas. Cocoa and aged balsamic vinegar scents hover in the background. Zippy acidity and a silky texture showcase flavors like cherry, all-spice, pecans and pepper. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.3% **Price:** \$50

**92 Convergence Zone 2021 Virga Rhône-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This Mourvèdre-Syrah-Grenache blend erupts with the aroma of blackberry pie, complete with a nice bit of sugary spillover crusting around the rim. Then black cherry, clove, orange and black tea seal the deal. Serve with barbecue ribs for a little "Rhônes and bones" action. *Editors' Choice.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.9% **Price:** \$35

**92 Dusted Valley 2021 Wallywood Stone Tree Vineyard Rhône-style Red Blend (Wahluke Slope).** Silky tannins, gentle acidity and a supple mouthfeel make the Wallywood an easy sipping experience. The wine is an 84% Mourvèdre, 11% Syrah and 5% Grenache blend with aromas of cool earth, bacon fat and a warm blackberry scone.

Orange citrus and blackberry fruit flavors tango with notes of thyme and almonds. Pair this wine with any Prince album. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$45

**92 Enodav 2021 Maremma Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** For full review see page 16. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$55

**92 Mark Ryan 2021 Olivia Grace G-S-M (Columbia Valley).** The most intense, concentrated blueberry aroma I have encountered is accented by notes of tangy hoisin sauce and Cavendish pipe tobacco. The wine's acidity is bright, and powerful tannins support black cherry, thyme, lavender and bacon fat flavors. Drink now–2033. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$60

**92 Pursued by Bear 2020 Bear Cub Cabernet Sauvignon-Merlot (Columbia Valley).** A rich blackberry and boysenberry aromatic combination is complemented by a wisp of mocha latte. The wine's dark chocolate-covered black cherry and vanilla flavors coat the palate in delicious fashion, with modest acidity and velvety tannins providing a plush sipping experience. Try this Cub with a nice bowl of ragù-topped polenta. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$35

**91 Convergence Zone 2019 Storm Front Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This nicely balanced Merlot-driven blend leads with dark plums and orange zest aromas that play nicely with a salty/tangy hoisin sauce note. The cherry and chocolate-covered almond flavors are flanked by a tiny cedar note. The wine's tannins are plush and its acidity slightly elevated. —M.A.  
**abv:** 13.8% **Price:** \$33

**91 Dusted Valley 2020 BFM Southwind Vineyard Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Walla Walla Valley).** This Merlot-driven Bordeaux blend hits first with boysenberry pie and cedar aromas. Then blackberry citrus and coffee flavors are hung out to dry on a massive wall of tannins. The wine's leathery texture takes a minute to adjust to, much like a circa 1988 Mike Tyson punch. Decanting is highly recommended. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$55

**91 Mark Ryan 2021 Long Haul Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** The Long Haul is mostly Merlot, with a ripe blackberry aroma and a very Seattle-like combination of espresso shots and mocha. Just add rain. The wine's black cherry and shortbread flavors suggest a café baked-good treat to go along with that espresso. The tannins are velvety and the acidity restrained. —M.A.  
**abv:** 14.8% **Price:** \$65

**90 Desert Wind 2019 Ruah Desert Wind Estate Vineyard Red Blend (Wahluke Slope).** Damp earth and sweet raspberry aromas get things off to a good start. This medium-bodied Cabernet Sauvignon



gnon-driven blend then offers elevated acidity to accompany flavors of black cherries and a Mediterranean medley of olive oil, rosemary and thyme. This makes for a pleasant tippie at a good price. —M.A.

abv: 13.9%

Price: \$25

**90 Eternal 2018 Rocket Man Red Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** After four years in French oak barrels, the Rocket Man's dark chocolate-covered blueberry aroma is counterpointed by bits of cedar, leather and earth. Blackberry fruit arrives on the palate, joined by more cedar and roasted pork shoulder flavor. Grab some quick, as it is going to be a long, long time 'til touch-down brings it around again. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$44

**90 Gordon Estate 2021 Reserve Tradition Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** This Cabernet Sauvignon- and Cabernet Franc-driven blend offers a sweetly floral nose that includes aromas of black cherries, hyacinth and grape soda. Massive tannins and a leathery texture back tart red cherry and boysenberry fruit flavors that are accented by balsa wood and grilled button mushrooms. Drink now–2034. *Cellar Selection.* —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$40

**90 Lydian 2021 GSM G-S-M (Columbia Valley).** This GSM's nose is "funky, funky, but chic" in a way that would make David Johansen smile. Loamy soil and boysenberry aromas unite with notes of earthy oregano and sweet strawberry doughnut icing. The blend's blueberry yogurt flavor is counterpointed by lemony acidity and a brisk mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 14.8%

Price: \$25

**89 Auclair 2021 96 Cedars Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain).** This tannic beast spent 20 months in French oak, 12% new. The wine's aromatic set includes black cherries, freshly turned soil, violets and, appropriately enough, cedar. Lots of cedar. Dark plums and boysenberries join forces on the leathery palate with flavors of citrus and cacao nibs. Decanting is a fine idea. —M.A.

abv: 14.2%

Price: \$25

**89 Cana's Feast 2021 Two Rivers Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** Year in and year out, the Two Rives is always one of the great Pacific Northwest values. This Merlot- and Cabernet Franc-driven blend leads with boysenberry, spearmint and crushed almond aromas. Brisk acidity and a crisp mouthfeel frame flavors of Bing cherries, dark plums, jasmine tea and balsa wood. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 14.3%

Price: \$20

**89 Dusted Valley 2021 Squirrel Tooth Alice Stone Tree Vineyard Grenache-Syrah (Wahluk Slope).** This is my favorite squirrel wine ever. Its blackcap raspberry and graphite aromas scamper away, closely followed by lemon and cedar notes. A pronounced cigar box flavor is joined by raspberries

and a trace of molasses. The tannins are so stout, you feel like you are gnawing on leather. Decanting or live trapping are in order—your choice. —M.A.

abv: 14.7%

Price: \$45

**89 Fielding Hills 2020 Tribute Riverbend Vineyard Red Blend (Wahluk Slope).** This blend of 54% Merlot, 30% Cabernet Sauvignon and 16% Syrah opens with black fruited aromas and puffs of pipe tobacco and wet stones. Sweet flavors like strawberry gelato and dark chocolate glide along a viscous texture. The wine's tannins are plush and its acidity soft. —M.A.

abv: 14.4%

Price: \$40

**88 3 Rein 2021 Red Blend (Columbia Valley).** There is a lot to love about this Merlot-driven blend, not the least of which is the unbelievable price. The wine's blackberry compote, blueberry and orange zest aromas are accompanied by a touch of earthiness. Then you get flavors like cranberry-raspberry, toasted walnuts and dark chocolate floating on a smooth, seamless mouthfeel. *Best Buy.* —M.A.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$8

**86 Liberty Lake 2020 Somm's Select Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Red Mountain).** A balsa wood and blueberry aromatic combination gives this Cabernet Franc- and Merlot-driven blend the sense of smelling a popsicle stick. Violets and thyme hover in the background. Dark plum, allspice, ginger and cacao nib flavors are joined by hints of oak staves and clove. Soft acidity and plush tannins are present. —M.A.

abv: 14%

Price: \$40

**86 Longship 2020 Quinn Red Blend (Yakima Valley).** The Quinn spent nearly two years in French oak, 50% new. Its aromas of blackberries, pipe tobacco and wet stones are nearly eclipsed by a massive amount of cedarwood. The wine's texture is soft and smooth as a result of plush tannins and a homeopathic amount of acidity. The flavors are reminiscent of a cross between a grape Jolly Rancher candy and orange citrus. —M.A.

abv: 14.5%

Price: \$42

## DESSERT WINE

**89 Eternal 2020 Eternal Bliss Fortified Syrah (Wahluk Slope).** Using brandy distilled from grape lees, Eternal Wines created a fortified single vineyard Syrah that could be dessert all by itself. The Eternal Bliss, which sounds so permanent, is a decadent, diet-busting temple of rich dark chocolate and cherry liqueur, with modest acidity and a thick, plush mouthfeel. —M.A.

abv: 21%

Price: \$54/500 ml

## ARGENTINA

### CHARDONNAY

**94 Zuccardi 2021 Fósil Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** The wine hails from San Pablo in Uco Valley. In this cold vintage, both white and red wines from this appellation show complexity. This Chardonnay starts with an enticing nose of wet stone, white blossoms and a touch of ginger. The citric and textured palate includes notes of Meyer lemon, clementine and dried herbs. There is a light saline note in the delicious finish. Winesellers, Ltd. *Editors' Choice.* —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$90

**92 Trapiche 2021 Terroir Series Fincas Las Piedras Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** This starts with sweet notes of honeysuckle that lead to a textured and delicious palate of chamomile tea, citrus fruit, honey and a lovely note of turmeric mixed with fresh herbs. It's elegant and tasty. WX Brands. *Hidden Gem.* —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$52

**91 El Enemigo 2021 Chardonnay (Mendoza).** The wine's inviting aromas of dried fruit and apples introduce a tasty palate with layers of lime, linden leaves and chamomile tea. The balancing acidity is enough to support the flavors and extend them through the finish. This pairs perfectly well with a butternut squash and pecan salad. Winebow Imports. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

**91 Salentein 2022 Numina Spirit Vineyard Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** Geographical Indication San Pablo is a high-altitude appellation in the Uco Valley. With a cool climate, it's a good place to grow white grape varieties, such as this Chardonnay. It has a citrus character that is austere on the nose but shows a range of herbs and fruit on the palate. Chamomile, linden leaf, lemon and grapefruit fill the mouth and offer a satisfying finish. Palm Bay International. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$30

**90 Kaiken 2022 Ultra Chardonnay (Mendoza).** This mineral-textured Chardonnay has a nose of honey and white flowers. A small portion of the wine was aged in barrels for 12 months. As a result, the palate offers hints of vanilla mixed with honey, almond, pear and herbs, and energized by vibrant acidity. Arano LLC. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$25

**90 Luca 2022 G Lot Chardonnay (Tupungato).** This well-structured Chardonnay has a balanced mix of fruit and baking spices that make it enjoyable from start to finish. The nose displays aromas of lime and honey. It has energy on the creamy palate, backing flavors of apricot and lemon along with vanilla and honey. Vine Connections. —J.V.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$40

# BUYINGGUIDE

**90 Salentein 2022 Reserve Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** Delicate aromas of melon, mango and pineapple perfume the nose and repeat on the palate. The wine's tropical character is balanced by zesty acidity. Key lime, green apple and leafy notes add an extra layer of flavor to this zippy and fruity Chardonnay. Palm Bay International. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Trapiche 2021 Gran Medalla Chardonnay (Mendoza).** Oaky notes are carved in the character of this Chardonnay. Tropical fruit flavors provide balance and depth. The palate is full and features good acidity and a buttery texture. It finishes with a hint of turmeric. WX Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Viña Cobos 2022 Felino Chardonnay (Mendoza).** Paul Hobbs, founding partner at this winery, selected vineyards from Luján de Cuyo and Uco Valley to make this lively and satisfying Chardonnay. Notes of grapefruit, Key lime and dill find balance in the fresh palate. Paul Hobbs Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.6% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Finca Lalande Unaked Chardonnay (Tupungato).** Subtle aromas of citrus fruit prepare the palate for flavors of grapefruit, nectarine and dill. It has balancing acidity and a medium finish. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Viña Cobos 2021 Bramare Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** Citrus and herbal notes shape this Chardonnay. Baking spices in the form of vanilla add an extra layer to the smooth palate. It's medium bodied and features moderate acidity. The finish exhibits oaky notes. Paul Hobbs Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Luigi Bosca 2022 Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** Delicate lime and citrus blossom aromas form an attractive bouquet. The palate has prominent flavors of herbs and mild notes of green apple and apricot. It's medium bodied, with a buttery finish. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Montlaiz 2022 Dandelion Chardonnay (Mendoza).** This has a nose of wet stone and citrus fruit. It exhibits enjoyable apricot and white peach flavors, enhanced by herbal notes and a dash of honey. Wine For The World. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Domaine Bousquet 2023 LoCa Organic Chardonnay (Uco Valley).** Fresh and light bodied, this Chardonnay offers aromas of lime, pear and yeast. The palate delivers intense citrus fruit that is mixed with white peach and dill. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Penedo Borges 2021 Prisma Single Vineyard Chardonnay (Agrego-Luján de Cuyo).** After a few minutes in the glass, the nose shows soft citrus aromas. The palate is medium in weight with notes of lemon peel and herbs. Enjoy this as an aperitif or

pair it with tuna salad. Metropolis Wine Merchants, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

## TORRONTÉS

**93 El Enemigo 2020 Gran Enemigo Torrontés (Mendoza).** A white wine revolution in Argentina is led by elegant wines with complexity such as this Torrontés. It was fermented in amphoras and then aged in oak barrels, resulting in a wine with subtle but well-defined aromas of jasmine, peach and chamomile. The vibrant palate offers lemons, linden tea, dried fruits and light notes of honeysuckle. Drink now–2028. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$65

**90 Piattelli 2023 High Altitude Torrontés (Cafayate).** For full review see page 26. Vinocopia. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$16

**87 Areyna 2023 Torrontés (Cafayate).** Candied lime aromas give the impression of sweetness, but this is a lean and dry Torrontés. The palate offers citrus fruit and sharp acidity. Enjoy now. Vine Connections. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Domingo Molina 2020 Torrontés (Salta).** Herbaceous aromas are intense on the nose. Lime, ginger and cardamom contribute to the wine's spicy citrus character. Sharp acidity supports the lightweight palate. Gourmet Food and Wine Distributor. —J.V.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$21

## OTHER WHITE WINES

**90 Mendel 2022 Sémillon (Uco Valley).** Subtle lime and wood spices form the bouquet of this white. It features good acidity, lifting chamomile and herbaceous flavors. A lemony finish adds a nice touch to the aftertaste. This Sémillon has moderate complexity now but might show a richer character in a year or two. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**88 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Sauvignon Blanc (Tupungato).** Fresh aromas of apples and pears are featured on the nose. The palate delivers flavors of chamomile and green tea that interact with ripe lemons and pears alongside good acidity. This fresh Sauvignon will make an excellent aperitif. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Finca la Celia 2023 Reserva Pinot Grigio (Uco Valley).** Aromas of apricot and white blossoms jump out of the glass of this zippy Pinot Grigio. The palate displays subtle notes of peach and lemon zest that dissolve in a crisp finish. Enjoy now. Misa Imports. *Best Buy.* —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

**87 Salentein 2023 Portillo Sauvignon Blanc (Uco Valley).** A mix of chalk, melon and dill aromas emerge from the glass of this Sauvignon Blanc from Uco Valley. It has sharp acidity and tropical fruit flavors that extend through the medium finish. Palm Bay International. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Graffigna 2023 Genuine Collection Pinot Grigio (Argentina).** This is austere and lightweight. The nose shows hints of lemon peel and introduces a mildly citrus palate. A dash of grass lingers in the finish. VSPT USA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$9

## WHITE BLENDS

**91 Luigi Bosca 2022 De Sangre White Blend (Mendoza).** For full review see page 21. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. *Hidden Gem.*  
**abv:** 13.1% **Price:** \$29

**89 Catena Zapata 2022 Catena Appellation Luján de Cuyo White Clay White Blend (Luján de Cuyo).** Sémillon and Chenin Blanc have a long history in Argentina. This blend of both grapes offers delicate aromas of citrus fruit and honeysuckle. The palate has weight and features moderate acidity, leading flavors of apricot, lemon and butter through a ripe finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

**89 Elena Lora 2022 White Blend (Mendoza).** The front label of this blend of Muscat and Torrontés has a floral design that perfectly reflects its character. The super-aromatic nose includes notes of jasmine followed by subtle lime peel and orange zest. The dry and lightweight palate features grapefruit, orange and a floral expression, with a dash of herbs, alongside good acidity. Enjoy now. Penrose Hill. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Montlaiz 2022 Dandelion Skin Contact White Blend (Mendoza).** The spicy nose of this skin-contact blend of Ugni Blanc and Moscatel delivers nutmeg, clove and hints of peach. The palate offers peach-tea flavors, with a drop of lemon and grapefruit, alongside moderate acidity. Wine For The World. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

## ROSÉ

**90 Catena Zapata 2022 La Marchigiana Rosé (Mendoza).** Made with Criolla Chica grapes, this rosé features subtle notes of herbs on the nose that introduce a flavorful palate. It's savory with ripe red berries, oregano and a touch of salt. Optimal acidity makes this wine a great pairing for pepperoni pizza. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.2% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Gaia Earth Goddess Made with Organic Grapes Rosé (Gualtallán)**

**lary).** The wine-making team at Domaine Bousquet focuses on fruit from Uco Valley, where the wines usually show freshness. This rosé made with Pinot Noir from organic vineyards offers aromas of nectarine. Good acidity backs flavors of stone and pome fruit that extend to the lingering finish. It's a light but tasty rosé. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88** **Domaine Bousquet 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Rosé (Tupungato).** Notes of sweet pear, orange peel and wet stone form the bouquet. It's a lean and lively rosé that delivers enjoyable strawberry and raspberry flavors. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87** **Finca la Celia 2022 Rosé (Uco Valley).** Aromas and flavors of citric fruit shape the character of this rosé. The palate has moderate acidity and lemony notes that show in the medium finish. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$10

## MALBEC

**96** **Catena Zapata 2021 Adrianna Vineyard River Malbec (Gualtallary).** This is a beautifully balanced Malbec, with an elegant character and polished tannins. Floral aromas are followed by soft notes of leather and berries. The palate is very expressive, offering layers of blackberries, raspberries, cassis, licorice and jarilla. It has a silky texture and features optimal acidity, suggesting it will age gracefully. Drink now–2035 and beyond. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$200

**94** **Altos Las Hormigas 2021 Jardin De Hormigas Meteora Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** Aromas of jarilla, rosemary, peppercorn and flint are followed by wild berries. The wine is full bodied, with elegant tannins and silky texture. Bright ripe fruit flavors are enhanced by hints of licorice, dried herbs and black pepper that extend into a savory aftertaste. This is a delicious Malbec from the winery's vineyards in Paraje Altamira, Uco Valley. Skurnik Wines, Inc. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$43

**94** **Catena Zapata 2020 Nicasia Vineyard Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** Deliciously fresh aromas of mint leaf, dark fruit and nutmeg mix with white pepper on the nose. The palate shows strength and a mineral texture. 2020 was a warm year, but this wine exhibits excellent acidity, driving mulberry, blackberries, oak spices and Mediterranean herbs through the flavorful finish. Enjoy now–2033. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$100

**93** **Altos Las Hormigas 2021 Appellation Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** In this Malbec, energy and subtle elegance shine through the aromas and the palate. It's lively and offers a nose of crushed

cranberries. Fine tannins and excellent acidity support flavors of cherry, red plum and cranberry. Saline notes add to the wine's complexity. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Finca Flichman 2019 Dedicado Microterroir Sand & Silt Malbec (Uco Valley).** There is depth and balance in this wine. The nose exhibits aromas of jarilla, cranberry, cherry and mint. The wine shows its full character in the midpalate with a good amount of ripe black and red berries, tobacco and dried herbs. It has velvety tannins, excellent acidity and a lasting finish. Drink now–2033. Evaton, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Trapiche 2020 Terroir Series Finca Ambrosia Single Vineyard Malbec (Mendoza).** The Terroir Series wines are reds with character. This Malbec comes from a vineyard in Gualtallary and opens with light notes of chalk, black cherry and clove. The palate offers vivid rosemary, black fruit and cocoa bean over a mineral texture. WX Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$NA

**92** **Altos Las Hormigas 2021 Appellation Malbec (Gualtallary).** This vintage is more austere than the previous one, but preserves the same structure and vibrancy. After a few minutes, fresh berry aromas appear on the glass. Savory notes lurk in the background and complement black- and red-fruit flavors. It has polished tannins and a lasting finish. Skurnik Wines, Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$45

**92** **Finca la Celia 2020 Heritage Single Vineyard Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** For full review see page 17. VSPT USA.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$40

**92** **Luca 2021 Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** There is balance in this fruit-forward Malbec of smooth texture. The nose has subtle notes of chalk and thyme. Flavors of raspberries, plums, blackberries, thyme and spices flow through the palate, disappearing slowly in the aftertaste. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$22

**92** **Marcelo Pelleriti 2020 Signature Malbec (Uco Valley).** Delicate aromas of berries and violets interact with herbs and a dash of pink pepper. It's a silky Malbec with elegant tannins and a fruit-focused palate, where a balanced dose of spices and leafy notes adds to its complexity. Plum, blackberry, rosemary, peppercorn and cinnamon extend into the finish. Go Wine LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$28

**92** **Monteviejo 2020 Petite Fleur Malbec (Uco Valley).** There is a delicate perfume of fresh plums and roses on the nose. This is balanced and expressive, with fine tannins. Cranberry, blueberry, cinnamon and nutmeg mix on the silky palate. It's a

wonderful combination of quality and value. Taub Family Selections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**91** **Bodega Renacer 2020 R Malbec (Luján de Cuyo).** The heat of the vintage left its mark in this red that shows a ripe and savory character. Tasty flavors of prune, dried cherry, cinnamon and dark chocolate show on the palate. The finish is pleasant and long. Wein Bauer Inc. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$70

**91** **Mascota 2020 Unánime Signature Malbec (Mendoza).** This is a rich Malbec with layers of fruit and violets on the nose. Oak spices, plums, cherry, blackberry, chocolate and a dash of sage fill the mouth. It's balanced and offers notes of smoke in the finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**90** **Atrevida 2022 Malbec (Mendoza).** This Malbec has a pleasant nose that shows herbal aromas of rosemary. It's flavorful, with soft tannins, moderate acidity and salty notes that make the wine enjoyable. There is a rich concentration of plums and dark cherries accented by hints of cola and sage. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**90** **Kaiken 2021 Aventura Valle de Canota Malbec (Mendoza).** This Malbec is from a new Mendoza appellation called Canota Valley, where vines grow at 3,700 feet. The wine exhibits notes of black fruit and eucalyptus. Chalky tannins frame a structured palate of herbs, blackberries and plums. Arano LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$38

**90** **Kauzo 2020 Cofermented Malbec (Uco Valley).** A blend of grapes from Altamira and La Consulta in the Uco Valley resulted in a wine with meaty dark fruit, vigorous acidity and mineral texture. Light notes of thyme meet red fruit in the finish. It's fresh and enjoyable. Go Wine LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$19

**90** **Lagarde 2021 Henry Lagarde Old Vines 1908 Malbec (Mendoza).** Coming from vineyards planted in 1908, this Malbec is made with organic grapes and has a bouquet of berries and violets. There is a rich concentration of strawberry and blackberry flavors supported by enough acidity to keep the palate fresh. Light delicious notes of rosemary appear in the lasting finish. Misa Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$NA

**90** **Magna Montis 2022 Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** After a few minutes in the glass, this wine opens up and features hints of herbs on the nose that repeat on the palate. Subtle notes of oregano and bay leaf followed by dried rose petals and hints of cranberry are backed by chalky tannins.



# BUYINGGUIDE

Moderate acidity adds freshness to a persistent herbal finish. Vine Street Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.7% **Price:** \$43

**90 Ruca Malen 2021 Capítulo Tres Malbec de Ánforas Malbec (Mendoza).** Pomegranate, blueberry and mulberry aromas make the nose attractive. Nice acidity energizes a full palate, where ripe black- and red-fruit flavors extend into the long finish. It has fine tannins and a good structure. Opici Wines. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$53

**90 Siete Fincas 2022 Selected Vineyards Malbec (Mendoza).** Light notes of cassis blend with ripe plums on the inviting nose. The wine's smooth texture, good acidity and fruit-focused character make it very approachable. Leafy notes mark the finish. It's perfect for a relaxing night eating tapas with friends. Copa Fina Imports CA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.1% **Price:** \$19

**90 Trapiche 2021 Medalla Malbec (Mendoza).** Ripe and enticing on the nose, this shows berry jam aromas. Plenty of blackberry and mulberry flavors balance the oaky notes on the soft palate and linger in the medium finish. WX Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Trapiche 2020 Gran Medalla Malbec (Mendoza).** There is a rich nose of licorice, cassis and earthy aromas that lead to a concentrated, yet fresh palate. Excellent acidity adds energy to the mix of cherry, plums, cranberry and chocolate nibs that fill the mouth. WX Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Alma de los Andes 2021 Reserva Malbec (Mendoza).** The nose has sweet aromas of cherry and licorice. This is an easy-going and fruit-forward Malbec to enjoy with beef stewed. Black fruit and spices fill the mouth. Plums, nutmeg and peppercorn mixed with a dash of chocolate. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Catena Zapata 2021 Catena Appellation Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** Plenty of berry flavors with notes of cassis and tobacco fill the mouth. The wine's mineral texture and moderate acidity provide a good frame for its fruit-forward character. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$27

**89 Durigutti 2022 HD Old Vines Malbec (Paraje Altamira).** Winemaker Hector Durigutti sources grapes from vines planted in 1943 in Paraje Altamira. This wine leans towards an austere character and offers subtle aromas of violets and bay leaf. A palate of plums and herbs is backed by ample acidity that drives the flavors to a medium finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**89 Graffito 2021 Malbec (Mendoza).** Classic blackberry and plum aromas of Malbec mixed with a touch of licorice. This wine is straight-forward on the palate, with a good concentration of ripe black fruit and spices, with slightly astringent tannins providing support. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$22

**89 Lamadrid 2022 Los Bocheros Malbec (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo).** This wine offers a spicy nose, providing aromas of aniseed and vanilla. Flavors of prune and dried cherry are lifted by optimal acidity. It's light bodied and enjoyable, with delicate hints of baking spices and abundant fruit notes. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$12

**89 Luigi Bosca 2021 Malbec (Mendoza).** Hints of black fruit shape the nose. The palate is linear and fruit forward with light tannins and enough acidity to carry the flavors into a medium finish. It's an enjoyable red that will pair well with empanadas. Pacific Highway Wines & Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Salentein 2022 Killka Museum Series Malbec (Uco Valley).** The name of this Malbec honors the cultural center at this monumental winery in the Uco Valley. The grapes are sourced from this region and make a lively wine, with notes of red plum and herbs. It has gripping tannins and bright acidity. Palm Bay International. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Virgen Malbec (Tupungato).** Berry aromas are subtle on the nose. The palate shows generous flavors of blackberry and a dash of cumin, peppercorn and grass. It's a soft and enjoyable red. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Finca Decero 2021 Remolinos Vineyard Malbec (Agrelo).** Leafy notes on the nose blend with blackberry jam. This wine is medium bodied and has a herbaceous character, with soft flavors of black fruit and tobacco. Vintus LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**88 Montlaiz 2022 Dandelion Organic Malbec (Mendoza).** The inviting nose brings aromas of maraschino cherry. It's lively and linear on the palate with pomegranate and cranberry flavors. Wine For The World. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**88 Viña Palaciegua 2021 Gran Selección Malbec (Mendoza).** The nose of this Malbec is austere. Mulberry and other black fruit meet notes of clove on the lean palate. It's an enjoyable, easy-going Malbec for a midweek dinner. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Bodega Piedra Negra 2022 Arroyo Grande Organic Sin Sulfitos Agregados Malbec (Uco Valley).** A restrained nose exhibits mild notes of berries. This is an easy-going unoaked red, with a

slightly astringent palate that features concentrated black-fruit flavors. BGPL USA. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Bodega Renacer 2022 Punto Final Made with Organic Grapes Malbec (Mendoza).** The wine has an earthy character balanced by subtle berry notes. It's medium bodied with soft tannins. Sharp acidity drives the fruit flavors to a medium herbal finish. Enjoy now. Wein Bauer Inc. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$17

**87 Bodegas Lopez 2021 Vasco Viejo Edición Vintage Malbec (Mendoza).** Grapes sourced from vineyards in Maipú, Uco Valley and Luján de Cuyo were used to make this wine, resulting in a lean Malbec with overripe notes of plums and peppercorn. Hints of grass and a subtle earthiness appear in the finish. Polaner Selections. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$11

**87 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Finca Lalande Made with Organic Grapes Malbec (Tupungato).** The austere nose offers light aromas of black fruit. Moderate acidity provides support to flavors of stewed plum on the angular palate. It's an easy-drinking Malbec. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Flight of the Condor 2022 Malbec (Mendoza).** This is a straight-forward fruity wine that's lightly structured. Black fruit takes over the palate and disappears in the short finish. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Infinito 2021 Winemaker's Selection Malbec (Mendoza).** There is a sweet note of cherry jam on the nose. This is a Malbec with light acidity and soft tannins. Ripe strawberry, bell pepper and earthy flavors invade the palate then fade in a medium finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$38

**87 La Posta 2022 Paulucci Malbec (Mendoza).** Plums perfume the nose of this Malbec. The palate is driven by enough acidity to support a good amount of black- and red-fruit flavors. The finish is medium long with grassy notes. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$18

**87 Septima 2022 Organic Malbec (Mendoza).** The wine has a restrained nose with subtle aromas of berries. It's fresh and presents flavors of blackberries with a touch of grass. Drink now to enjoy its fruity character. Raventos Codorniu. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Domaine Bousquet 2023 LoCa Organic Malbec (Uco Valley).** This zippy Malbec has only 9.5% ABV and a fruity nose. It's lightly structured and features sharp acidity, backing spiced berry and hibiscus flavors on the thin palate. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 9.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Wellsley Farms 2021 Gran Seleccion Malbec (Mendoza).** Hints of white pepper and black fruit form the bouquet of this lean and simple Malbec. The palate has light acidity and mild flavors of chocolate and stewed plums. Drink now. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.4% **Price:** \$NA

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**90 Ánimal 2022 Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** Juicy, round and full bodied, this Cabernet has a smooth texture and a balanced mix of raspberry jam and oak spices. Lovely acidity adds freshness to the mouthfeel. Vineyard Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Alavida Mevushal Organic Kosher Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato).** This is one to pair with grilled steak and share with friends. The nose has subtle aromas of berries. The palate follows the same austere character, but after a few minutes in the glass, it delivers red-fruit flavors with a touch of leafy notes over a smooth texture. Kosher. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Cameleon Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato).** The nose is fruit forward, with red plum and cherry followed by subtle notes of flint. Aged six months in French oak barrels, the wine has a ripe and full palate. Blackberry, mulberry and plum blend with green bell pepper, thyme and jarilla. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**90 SonVida 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Paraje Altamira).** This wine is fresh and vigorous with a nose of strawberry jam and a good amount of berry flavors. Smooth tannins provide a good frame for pomegranates, strawberries and cranberries on the palate. The finish shows tobacco and bay leaf. Kysela Père et Fils. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$23

**89 Atrevida 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** The wine offers red fruit and savory notes. Meaty red plums, bell peppers and spices are lifted by good acidity on the dense palate. It has ripe tannins and an enjoyable medium finish. Vino Del Sol. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Bueyes 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** Herbaceous notes mark the character of this Cabernet. Bell pepper and a dash of smoke form the nose. On the palate, flavors of dried herbs are prominent but pleasant. A light note of ripe cherry follows and leads to a short finish. Copa Fina Imports CA. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

**89 Domaine Bousquet 2023 Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato).** Black fruit forms the bouquet of this medium-bodied and smooth Cabernet. The palate has layers of blackberries, bell peppers and bay leaf that extend to a medium finish. Origins Organic Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Domaine Bousquet 2022 Finca Lalande Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Sauvignon (Tupungato).** The fruit for this Cabernet was sourced from organic vineyards in the highlands of Gualtallary in Uco Valley. The wine is unoaked and preserves abundant fruit flavors alongside herbal notes. Soft tannins and optimal acidity provide support to the flavorful palate. WISD LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Durigutti 2022 HD Old Vines Cabernet Sauvignon (Paraje Altamira).** Aromatic herbs and cranberries make an attractive bouquet. Layers of ripe berries and bell peppers fill the mouth. Optimal acidity energizes the palate and extends a subtle note of grass into the finish. Hidalgo Imports, LLC. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$25

**87 Finca la Celia 2022 Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** An austere character marks the profile of this Cabernet. The palate has sharp acidity and tight tannins framing mild notes of red fruit and chocolate. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

**87 Flight of the Condor 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Mendoza).** This wine is austere on the nose. The palate is more giving, providing flavors of figs, plums, peppercorn and bay leaf that disappear in a warm medium finish. Vintus LLC. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Gouguenheim Winery 2020 Estaciones Cabernet Sauvignon (Uco Valley).** The aromas of bell pepper are subtle and introduce a palate with flavors of overripe berries. This Cabernet has sharp acidity and soft tannins. Light notes of bell pepper and grass emerge in the aftertaste. Vias Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**87 Lamadrid 2022 Los Bocheros Cabernet Sauvignon (Agrelo-Luján de Cuyo).** Grass and berries mark the character of this lighter-bodied Cabernet. The palate is soft and offers mild flavors of red fruit wrapped in herbs. Drink now. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$12

**87 Lamadrid 2022 Single Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Agrelo).** A light note of grass leads to a medium-bodied palate in this easy-drinking red. Gentle tannins and moderate acidity back

ripe fruit flavors that fade in a medium finish. Vino Del Sol. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**87 Tussock Jumper 2022 Cabernet Sauvignon (Argentina).** Soft notes of black olive and red fruit show on the nose. It has drying tannins and pungent acidity, driving berry and grass flavors through a short finish. Tri-Vin Imports. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$14

## PINOT NOIR

**94 Domaine Nico 2018 Le Paradis Pinot Noir (Uco Valley).** From vineyards in the highlands of Gualtallary, Uco Valley, a place that seems to be a paradise for Pinot Noir. The nose reveals attractive aromas of cranberry and hints of thyme in this red that has depth and silky texture. Subtle notes of citrus fruit, red berries, mushrooms, dried aromatic herbs and dark chocolate shavings contribute to a lasting impression. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$350

**92 Bemberg Estate Wines 2015 La Linterna Las Piedras Parcela No. 12 Pinot Noir (Uco Valley).** A floral nose of dried roses leads to a delicate palate that takes a few minutes to fully open. Flavors of cherry and raspberry, followed by subtle notes of herbs, smoke and espresso are wrapped in silky tannins and supported by balancing acidity. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$100

**92 Domaine Nico 2019 Grand Mère Pinot Noir (Uco Valley).** Dr. Laura Catena chose high-altitude vineyards planted two decades ago in Tupungato, Uco Valley for this flavorful Pinot Noir. The nose displays cinnamon, vanilla bean and a touch of aniseed. Fine tannins and balancing acidity provide a good frame for notes of black tea, bay leaf, ripe plum and wild cherries, with a touch of salt and oak spices. Winebow Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$32

**90 Manos Negras 2020 Artesano Pinot Noir (Mendoza).** Subtle aromas of chocolate and leather lead to a slightly austere palate, where delicate berry flavors meet earthy notes. It's an enjoyable and savory Pinot Noir from 50-year-old vines in the Uco Valley. Uva Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$36

**89 Malma 2021 Chacra La Papay Single Vineyard Pinot Noir (Patagonia).** The flinty nose features subtle aromas of orange peel. This tasty expression of Pinot Noir from Neuquén in Patagonia offers bright berry flavors accented by cinnamon and other baking spices. Vias Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Aniello 2020 006 Riverside Estate Pinot Noir (Alto Valle del Río Negro).** The Río

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Negro, which translates to Black River, runs through the major wine regions in Patagonia. This wine is from the Mainqué region near the river and has an aromatic nose of ripe berries, aniseed and a subtle note of prune. Raspberries, plums and hints of kumquat blend with earthy flavors. Good acidity lifts the palate. Global Vineyard Importers. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$19

## BONARDA

**91 El Enemigo 2020 Bonarda (Mendoza).** For full review see page 20. Winebow Imports.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**90 El Enemigo 2020 El Barranco Bonarda (Mendoza).** The nose has aromas of wild berries, while delicious fruit flavors of strawberry, pomegranate and blackberry fill the mouth. It's medium bodied, juicy and savory, with a dash of peppercorn in the aftertaste. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 El Enemigo 2020 La Esperanza Bonarda (Mendoza).** This Bonarda has an attractive nose of pink peppercorns and a hint of roses. It's well structured and exhibits rich ripe black-fruit flavors and hints of herbs. The tasty palate is balanced by good acidity. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 El Enemigo 2020 Los Paraísos Bonarda (Mendoza).** Hints of violets and berries emerge from the glass as the wine unfolds. It has a spicy and ripe character that delivers plums and cherries mixed with a dash of black pepper and rosemary. Fine tannins and moderate acidity lead to an enjoyable finish. Winebow Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**87 Tercos 2021 Bonarda (Mendoza).** This is a lean and easy-going Bonarda. The nose is austere, but the palate shows generous notes of red fruit and hints of pink peppercorn. Global Vineyard Importers. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

## SYRAH

**91 Luca 2021 Laborde Double Select Syrah (Uco Valley).** The wine's spicy and fruity character is supported by round tannins and lifting acidity. This aromatic red comes from a 60-year-old vineyard in La Consulta, Uco Valley. Notes of chocolate and licorice follow black- and red-berry flavors that extend into a long finish with hints of smoke. Vine Connections. —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Finca La Anita 2020 Syrah (Agrelo).** This has a delicious peppery nose that includes aromas of cherry and a touch of oregano. This was a warm vintage and the firm palate shows ripeness. A

mix of bell pepper, cherry, plum and thyme flavors extend into a medium finish. Tri-Vin Imports. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**87 Tango Select 2018 Premium Syrah (Mendoza).** The nose has overripe fruit notes that make their way into the thin palate. Herbaceous flavors and hints of smoke meet prunes and figs. This is an easy-drinking Syrah with a medium finish. Argentine Specialties. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$22

## OTHER RED WINES

**93 Zuccardi 2021 Poligonos del Valle de Uco San Pablo Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley).** Cabernet Franc has adapted well to Argentina's terroir, and this wine is proof. It starts with an enticing nose of dried mint leaves and cherries. It's lively and full of savory strawberry, cranberry, plum and rosemary flavors, with a black-pepper accent. Fine, slightly chalky tannins and excellent acidity shape this delicious red. Winesellers, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$32

**90 Devoción 2021 Made with Organic Grapes Cabernet Franc (Mendoza).** The nose introduces fresh aromas of herbs in the form of rosemary and thyme followed by light notes of berries. The palate offers a good balance of fruit and savory notes, where strawberry and peppercorn blend with rosemary and bay leaf. It finishes long with a hint of cola. New Frontier Wine Co. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$25

## RED BLENDS

**93 Trapiche 2019 Iscay Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Mendoza).** Cabernet Franc adds savory notes, while Malbec contributes with its typical black-fruit flavors, balancing the character of this structured blend. It has a beautiful nose of chocolate-covered blueberries and licorice. Round tannins and good acidity support a layered palate of dark chocolate, cherry, blueberry, eucalyptus, nutmeg and vanilla. WX Brands. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$100

**93 Zuccardi 2018 Tito Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Paraje Altamira).** The wine offers floral aromas complemented by hints of wild berries. It has bright notes of strawberry and cranberry, with bay leaves adding depth. Featuring mineral texture, excellent acidity and elegant character, this Malbec-based blend shows the vibrancy of Paraje Altamira. Winesellers, Ltd. **Editors' Choice.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$NA

**92 El Enemigo 2020 Syrah-Viognier (Mendoza).** It's hard to find a blend of Syrah and Viognier in Argentina. However, some winemakers such as Alejandro Vigil have accepted the challenge, achieving interesting results. This wine has a nose of wild berries and flowers. It's fresh and has chalky tannins, providing a firm frame for ripe raspberry

and strawberry flavors. Winebow Imports. **Hidden Gem.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$30

**92 Trapiche 2020 Iscay Syrah-Viognier (Mendoza).** The nose offers a mix of pomegranate, tart cherry, apricot and white pepper. Spices such as nutmeg, chocolate and vanilla fill the mouth. This blend has firm tannins and optimal acidity backing the tasty palate. Flavors of dark cherry and rosemary contribute to the wine's complexity and shine through the finish. WX Brands. —J.V.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$NA

**88 Finca la Celia 2022 Reserva Malbec-Cabernet Franc (Uco Valley).** Aromas of herbs introduce a fruit-focused palate that leans towards ripe berries. Good acidity and soft tannins make the wine easy to drink. It finishes with earthy notes. Apollo Fine Wines & Spirits. **Best Buy.** —J.V.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$10

## AUSTRALIA

### SEMILLON

**95 Brokenwood 2017 ILR Reserve Semillon (Hunter Valley).** An enticing, delicate perfume of beeswax, lemon, ginger, white spice open, with lamp oil and honey notes creeping in with bottle age. There's lovely poise, brightness and balance on the palate. A chalky texture and pristine, prominent acidity gel with the vibrant citrus fruit. Drinking beautifully now—and expressing this singular Aussie style gracefully—it could also cellar for several more years. Old Bridge Cellars. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$75

**94 Brokenwood 2018 Oakey Creek Semillon (Hunter Valley).** This is aging comparatively quickly but it's showing beautifully. Both vibrant and fruity, and also honeyed and oily, there's delicate floral, white spice and waxy citrus and peach notes to start. The palate is wonderfully fresh with a long, bright line of lemon acidity that cuts through the viscosity of the mouthfeel. It's a uniquely Australian style that should hold up for several more years. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$34

**93 The Vinden Headcase 2022 Somerset Vineyard Semillon (Hunter Valley).** A pale gold color, with rich aromas of honeyed pear, peach, pineapple rind and subtle florals and white spice. There's a lovely balance on the palate between the textural weight and bright, lemony acidity, which races across the tongue, lingering long on the finish. Refreshing, food friendly, age worthy and uniquely Aussie. Hudson Wine Brokers. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11% **Price:** \$32

**93 Walsh & Sons 2022 Lil' Seb Semillon (Margaret River).** This cloudy, honey-colored, skin-contact Semillon from a top notch natty producer, Walsh and Sons, is reminiscent of a pick-your-own



orchard in the fall, with aromas of fresh hay, bruised apples, pumpkin spice and damp earth. The palate is radiant, with crackling acidity that tingles the tongue, a bit of skinsy tannins and earthy, wild flavors that lend a sense of place and food friendliness. Drink with truffle and other mushroomy, cheesy pasta dishes. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. *Hidden Gem*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.1% **Price:** \$29

**92 Kirkton Estate 2022 The William Semillon (Hunter Valley).** Rich aromas of lamp oil and beeswax aromas mingle with honeyed orchard fruit and white florals. The palate shows some lemony fruit sweetness that's countered by lovely, crunchy acidity. Lingers long in the mouth, making another sip an easy endeavor. Drink now–2030. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Happs 2021 Semillon (Margaret River).** This highly fruity Semillon from Margaret River offers notes of lemon-lime, apple and white peach flecked in honey. In the mouth, it's dry and fairly lightweight but with a slippery texture and crisp acidity that add gravitas and makes for food-friendly sipping. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$22

**89 Torbreck 2022 Woodcutter's Semillon (Barossa Valley).** This is on the reductive side to start, with onion and beeswax aromas mingling with apple and white-peach fruit. There's lovely texture to the palate and what feels like a touch of sweetness, lifted by lemony acidity. Straightforward with varietal expression. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$22

## SAUVIGNON BLANC

**87 Zilzie 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Victoria).** Intensely perfumed aromas of lime, green apple and passionfruit are followed by a palate that's equally fruity, dry and crisp with vibrant, juicy acidity. Zilzie Wines USA. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$15

**86 Flying Wild 2021 Three Elms Sauvignon Blanc (Frankland River).** A heady perfume of lavender, peach and citrus hand-soap aromas open this ultrapale SB. The palate is as lightweight as the color suggests, showing a hint of sweetness with some bright citrusy acidity to buoy it. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**86 Yellow Tail 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (South Eastern Australia).** A zingy of passionfruit, peach and lime aromas are followed by a dry, softly creamy-textured palate that's fresh and fruity with a tangy citrus and stone-fruit finish. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Yellow Tail 2022 Pure Bright Sauvignon Blanc (South Eastern Australia).** This fruity, low-alcohol Sauvignon offers heaps of peach and key lime pie aromas, flavors with a slightly creamy texture, a lift of lemony acidity and a synthetic edge to the palate. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$NA

**84 Zonte's Footstep 2022 Excalibur Sauvignon Blanc (Adelaide Hills).** Zippy grapefruit, lime and an oniony reductive note lead to a palate that's crisp and clean, with a touch of sweetness that's offset by rather shrill acidity. Artisans & Vines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

## PINOT GRIGIO

**87 De Bortoli 2022 17 Trees Pinot Grigio (Riverina).** A slightly reductive, rubbery note sits atop waxy lemon, ginger and peach aromas. There's some textural weight. Acidity is on the shrill side, although the stone and citrus fruit holds its own. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**87 Yellow Tail 2022 Pinot Gris (South Eastern Australia).** Highly perfumed with musky, crowd-pleasing aromas like honeysuckle, jasmine and peach, this is a textural and mostly dry summer sipper. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** NA **Price:** \$NA

**86 Oxford Landing 2022 Pinot Grigio (South Australia).** Apple, peach and white floral aromas lend delicacy to this mostly dry, fresh and fruity Pinot Gris that makes for straightforward yet tasty weeknight drinking. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$10

**86 Yellow Tail 2022 Pure Bright Pinot Grigio (South Eastern Australia).** Fruity aromas of white peach, kiwi and pear blossom are followed by an equally fruity palate that shows some sweetness, freshened by tangy acidity. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. —C.P.  
**abv:** 8.5% **Price:** \$NA

**85 Yalumba 2022 The Y Series Pinot Grigio (South Australia).** There's an odd note at first sniff, like old flowers still in the vase that distracts from the more pleasant stone and citrus aromas. The palate is fresh and gentle fruity, with straightforward appeal. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## RIESLING

**94 Pewsey Vale 2016 The Contours Museum Reserve Single Vineyard Estate Riesling (Eden Valley).** Intensely aromatic, this museum release Riesling, from old vines on a cool site, deftly

demonstrates how excellently this variety ages. Honey-roasted almonds, kerosene, lime oil and candied ginger progress to a dry, concentrated palate. Long, harmonious and fresh, it tingles with still-racy acidity and heaps of lemon-lime and floral flavors. Drinking beautifully now but shows no sign of tiring. Winebow Imports. *Hidden Gem*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$38

**94 Pikes 2022 The Merle Riesling (Clare Valley).** There's lovely intensity and vibrancy to this wine; a hint of kerosene adds, rather than detracts, from the bright citrus and floral aromas. It's dry and juicy on the palate with racy, lime-drenched acidity and a long, persistent finish. Could gain honeyed complexity with lengthy cellaring, it's a wonderfully refreshing drop now. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$45

**93 Kilikanoon 2022 Killerman's Run Riesling (Clare Valley).** This is a youthful, aromatic Riesling with notes of lime blossom, lavender, chalk dust, grapefruit and lemon peel. Bright acidity cuts through a talc-like texture. The citrus flavors are persistent to the finish. Drinking well now, this could age gracefully for several more years. What a bargain. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**92 Henschke 2021 Julius Riesling (Eden Valley).** A multitude of appealing aromas, from lavender and lime blossom to talcum powder ... lemon oil to orange essence introduce this racy, citrusy Riesling, from one of Aus's most historic and famed producers. There's flavor intensity and a slightly chalky mouthfeel. Still youthful, this has plenty of life left in it. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$55

**92 Kilikanoon 2022 Mort's Block Riesling (Clare Valley).** Honey-flecked lemon, lime blossom, beeswax and a hint of kerosene open this transparent Riesling. There's lovely, tongue-tingling, racy acidity, concentrated orange and lime flavors, length and poise. Deftly demonstrates the excellent value-for-money Clare Valley Riesling provides. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 11.5% **Price:** \$20

**92 Pikes 2022 Traditionale Riesling (Clare Valley).** For full review see page 18. Winebow Imports. *Editors' Choice*.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$25

**90 OG de Négoce 2022 Riesling (Clare Valley).** This is a ripe style by Aussie standards. While it's not typical, it's still enticing. A burst of honeyed pear leads, with lavender and lemon oil following behind. Zingy acidity keeps it mouth watering, while the round, gently textural palate adds interest. Phoenix Wine Company LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$NA

**89 Henschke 2022 Peggy's Hill Riesling (Eden Valley).** This is a youthful and currently

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austere Riesling from one of Barossa's best known names. Delicate, tightly wound aromas of lemon-lime, apple and white florals, with flickers of honey, progress to a mostly dry palate (a touch of sweetness can be detected) that's fresh but rounder and fleshier than the its more racy counterpart, "Julius." Drink over the next several years. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$33

**89 Pewsey Vale 2023 Single Vineyard Estate Riesling (Eden Valley).** This youthful single-site Riesling walks to its own beat. There's a honeyed richness and slight musk, with orange cream-sicle vibes, lemon verbena, key lime pie and floral soap, too. The palate is dry—almost surprisingly so—with richness and more flowery hand-soap characters along with ramped up primary citrus fruit. It's a bit jagged around the edges, but should settle nicely over the next several years. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 11.5%

Price: \$20

## CHARDONNAY

**92 Ben Haines 2022 Dixons Creek Chardonnay (Yarra Valley).** Medium gold in color, this is a layered, characterful Chard that opens with rich aromas of pineapple rind, melon and buttered popcorn. There's lovely acidity on the palate that counteracts the lactic, textural intensity and a long lemony finish. Restrained and food friendly. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12%

Price: \$30

**89 Elderton 2022 Ashmead Family E Series Chardonnay (South Australia).** There's a margarita quality to this wine: a salted melon, mango and peach rind refreshment. The palate is fruity and mouth filling but with balanced acidity. An easy-drinking, modern Chard. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.

abv: 13.2%

Price: \$NA

**87 Zilzie 2023 Chardonnay (Victoria).** This is a young, ripe and fruity Chard with peach, kiwi and lemon candy, and a creamy, vanillin undertone. There's a rich, creaminess to the mouthfeel, too, and plenty of fruit weight, but it's all lifted by a lovely line of bright acidity. Zilzie Wines USA. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

**84 Witching Hour NV Chardonnay (South Eastern Australia).** There's a lot of toasty oak and melted butter aromas at first sniff of this gold-hued Chard, with dried citrus peel, cinnamon, clove and cedar-bark nuances below. The palate also shows quite a bit of barrel influence, which never quite gels with the fruit. The Wine Group. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$12

## VIOGNIER

**92 Yalumba 2020 The Virgilius Viognier (Eden Valley).** This premium Viognier, from the winery that has cheered loudest for the variety, opens with flint and almond alongside honeyed orchard fruit aromas. Viognier's characteristically luscious mouthfeel dominates the palate. The fruit and acidity are quiet, but holding on after a few years of bottle age. A subdued, food friendly and harmonious drop. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$53

**90 Yalumba 2021 Samuel's Collection Viognier (Eden Valley).** Quite perfumed, this wild-fermented wine, from one of Aus's greatest Viognier champions, wafts aromas of lychee, pineapple rind, apricot and a little honey and ginger. It's full figured, with a mouth-coating texture and just enough acidity to handle it. Drink with buttery shellfish or a mildly seasoned pork loin. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$22

**87 Yalumba 2022 GEN Organic Viognier (South Australia).** There's a rubbery note at first sniff that mingles with waxy citrus, peach pit and almond oil. The palate is mouth coating but with enough acidity to keep things fresh. A somewhat muted, but generally harmonious drop. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$19

**85 Yalumba 2022 The Y Series Viognier (South Australia).** This is a subdued, reductive Viognier that requires swirling before squeaking out ginger, peach and citrus aromas. It's mid weight with acidity that feels a bit forced, but with a texture that offers food friendliness. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$15

## WHITE BLENDS

**92 Alkoomi 2022 Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Frankland River).** From the cool Great Southern region, this is distinctly Aussie in style, and reminiscent of a Paloma cocktail, with spiced pink grapefruit and lime notes, some bell pepper and dried green herbal nuances tucked in the corners. The palate comes with a damp-wool texture, mouth-watering acidity and a ping of citrus to a long finish. Yum. Little Peacock Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

**90 Forester Estate 2021 Lifestyle Semillon-Sauvignon Blanc (Margaret River).** Heady citrus and garden veg aromas of white grapefruit, lime, cilantro and bell pepper lead to a palate that shows lovely freshness, a gentle waxy texture and fruity zing. American Spirits Exchange Ltd. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$19

**90 Cullen 2022 Grace Madeline Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Margaret River).** This is a supple, fruity SBS from one of Margaret River's most longstanding producers. White peach, citrus and florals notes lend delicacy to the crisp, lightly cream-textured palate. It ends with lovely lemon-lime refreshment. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$35

**89 Xanadu 2022 Vinework Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Margaret River).** Give this a few furious swirls in the glass or pop it in a decanter briefly for the oniony reduction to blow off. You'll then be met with more pleasant aromas of white grapefruit, passionfruit, florals and grass. There's a big lift of crunchy acidity and a lightly chalky texture with a lemony finish. Rathbone Wine Group. —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$27

**88 Xanadu 2022 Circa 77 Sauvignon Blanc-Semillon (Margaret River).** Both varieties are on show here, via waxy lemon, grapefruit and dried-herbal notes. It's fresh and fruity, light on its feet, with just enough texture to make it easy sipping with food or without. Rathbone Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —C.P.

abv: 13%

Price: \$18

**87 Howard Park 2022 Miamup Sauvignon Blanc Semillon White Blend (Margaret River).** This is a bright and fruity Margaret River SBS with peach, apricot and lime aromas followed by a lightweight, refreshing palate that makes for easy summer sipping. Winebow Imports. —C.P.

abv: 12.5%

Price: \$20

## SHIRAZ

**96 Yangarra 2020 Ironheart Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** An aromatic bottling of Ironheart, this is plump and plummy, with notes of blueberry, earthy, savory spice, violets and chocolate. There's a warmth and ease to this wine that doesn't come from alcohol, overt ripeness or oak. It's succulent and silky, and sits firmly in the medium-bodied spectrum despite the sturdy structure of the tannins. Drink now or cellar throughout the next decade. Sovereign Wine Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.

abv: 13.5%

Price: \$125

**95 Forest Hill 2020 Block 9 Shiraz (Great Southern).** From the remote, cool Great Southern region in Western Aus, think "Syrah" as opposed to "Shiraz" style-wise. It's lucid and aromatic with layers of sexy, evocative aromas: black olive, sage, white pepper, violet, blood plum and blackberry, with a mineral, river-stone core. There's a beautifully satiny texture to the plush black fruit, lovely freshness and quietly powerful, gravel-textured, savory tannins. Still young, this is structured for the long haul, but drinks well now with decanting and wintery fare. Hudson Wine Brokers. *Hidden Gem.* —C.P.

abv: 14%

Price: \$60

**95** **Hickinbotham 2020 Brooks Road Shiraz (Clarendon).** Rich, polished and immediately likable, this vintage of Brook's Road is beautifully perfumed with succulent blueberries, thyme, florals and savory spice. The supple, silky primary fruit leads on the palate, but is structured within a frame of fine-grained tannins. Still a baby, this should evolve beautifully over the next several decades. Majestic Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$80

**95** **Penfolds 2020 St. Henri Shiraz (South Australia).** Plush, rich and perfumed, the 2020 St. Henri shows intensity and layers of aromas from blackberry jam and plum to roasted root veg seasonings such as ground pepper, sage and fennel seed. The plush palate is harmonious, with concentrated fruit and powerful, chalky tannins. Still in its infancy, this is a classic choice for the cellar and should age gracefully for many decades to come. Treasury Wine Estates. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$150

**94** **Brokenwood 2021 Graveyard Vineyard Shiraz (Hunter Valley).** There's a cool, savory edge to this lucid, premium Hunter Valley Shiraz. The fresh red-berry fruit is etched in dried herbs and white pepper with a hint of florals. As the nose implies, there's a lovely lift of acidity and sturdy, but fine-boned tannins. Still young, this could easily cellar another decade. Old Bridge Cellars. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$275

**94** **Henschke 2020 Tappa Pass Shiraz (Barossa).** Henschke's signature Shiraz aromas of beetroot-like earthiness is on display here such as roasted root vegetables and very dark chocolate woven with luscious plum and dark-berry fruit. The palate is bold and fruit driven, framed in spicy, chalk dust tannins. A chiseled, still somewhat austere wine that should evolve greatly with time in bottle. Drink 2025–2040. Winebow Imports. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$135

**94** **Moorooduc 2018 McIntyre Shiraz (Mornington Peninsula).** This is a highly characterful and quite medicinal bottling from this top Morning Peninsula estate. There's heady whole-bunch notes that evoke Campari bitters, flower stalks and fruit cake. It's mid weight, silky and ultrafresh, with supple, herb-smudged tannins and a lovely tang to the finish. Drink now–2028. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$60

**94** **Schild Estate 2019 Moorooroo Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Blackberry and raspberry jam laced in cumin, ground pepper and bay leaf, along with some mealy oak, are on display on this rich, lucid Shiraz, housed in an unfortunately heavy bottle. Granular tannins frame heaps of plush dark fruit on the mouth-coating palate. Still a baby, this

should age gracefully for many years to come. USA Wine West. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$132

**93** **Karatta 2021 Lost Ram Syrah (Robe).** This is a modern, perfumed Aussie Syrah from a top vintage, with an enticing lift of heady aromas. It weaves together a potpourri of dried herbs, spices and florals with cherry and currant cordial nuances. There's lovely structure to the palate: succulent dark fruit with sappy, savory spiced tannins. Yum. Little Peacock Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$30

**93** **Mount Langi Ghiran 2021 Billi Billi Shiraz (Victoria).** Australia's answer to Northern Rhône Syrah? Like sniffing the innards of a pepper grinder, this aromatic, highly spicy Shiraz also comes with a good dose of blue- and red-berry fruit, terracotta and an iodine-and-warm earth note. There's power and plushness to palate, but is framed in spicy, chiseled tannins and just enough freshness to keep the mouth watering. One of Aus's great Shiraz bargains. Rathbone Wine Group. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**93** **Penfolds 2021 Bin 28 Shiraz (South Australia).** For full review see page 14. Treasury Wine Estates.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**93** **Salomon Estate 2018 Finnis River Sea Eagle Vineyard Shiraz (Fleurieu Peninsula).** Plump and soft around the edges, this is cold weather comfort-drinking territory—think plum and currant jam, violets, a little licorice and earthy, peppery spice. All that luscious fruit goodness continues on the palate. Tannins are there, but it's such a plush and rounded mouthfeel that they're easily missed, acting as a grounding agent and supporting all that supple fruit. Still young, despite some bottle age. Fruit of the Vines, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$45

**93** **Worlds Apart 2022 Into the Black Syrah (McLaren Vale).** A perky perfume of plump purple plum (say that five times!) and cherry fruit is in the foreground here, with stalky, seemingly whole bunch-derived spice and some floral undertones. The palate is juicy fruited with lovely brightness and freshness, and peppery, raspy tannins. A fun take on McLaren Vale Shiraz. Vine Street Imports. *Editors' Choice.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.9% **Price:** \$50

**93** **Yalumba 2021 GEN Organic Shiraz (South Australia).** Layers of heady aromas from concentrated blackberry, cherry and blood plum to dried violets, cedar and thyme lead on this lucid, enticing Shiraz. The palate shows equal intensity but there's succulence and a silkiness to the dark fruit, and supple, subtly spicy tannins. Delicious, particularly for the price. Winebow Imports. *Best Buy.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**92** **Greg Norman Estates 2021 Shiraz (Limestone Coast).** For full review see page 25. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$17

**92** **Torbreck 2021 The Struie Shiraz (Barossa).** This inky Shiraz is ripe and plush with densely packed aromas of plum, black cherry, ground pepper and graphite with some toasty oak on display. It's a teeth-staining wine that oozes ripe, luscious dark fruit, framed in savory tannins. Still young and quite primary, this should cellar nicely for at least a decade. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$55

**92** **Torbreck 2020 The Factor Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Rich, ripe black currant, ground pepper and toasty oak-spice aromas are a powerful start to this muscular wine. On the palate, the plush fruit holds its own but the massive, saliva-zapping tannins are a bit hard to take at the moment. A few more years in bottle should settle things down and morph this into a lovely, winter-warming red. Delicato Family Wines. *Cellar Selection.* —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$120

**91** **Angove 2020 Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Plump plum and blueberry fruit is accompanied by subtle peppery spice and licorice notes. The palate is wound in dusty, savory tannins but remains fresh and balanced without burying the succulent red fruit. Drink now–2029. Trinchero Family Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.2% **Price:** \$22

**91** **Cluster M45 2016 Shiraz (Heathcote).** A partnership between famed Rhône producer Chapoutier and Heathcote pioneers Jasper Hill, this nearly eight-year-old (at the time of tasting) Shiraz is showing its age, but also its place. Plum-cake aromas of baking spice and lightly raisined fruit mingles with cherry cola oak and terra-cotta notes. There's freshness and a silky feel to the fruit that helps balance the powerful, raspy, oak-driven tannins. Sera Wine Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$122

**91** **D'Arenberg 2021 The Footbolt Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** For full review see page 20. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**91** **S.C. Pannell 2021 Field St. Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** A ripe, juicy-fruited bottling full of dark berry fruit, earthy spice, black-olive savoriness, violet and a mealy, toasted nuance. There's plenty of plump fruit on the full-figured palate. It's fresh and balanced with powerful tannins. A food-friendly wine if paired with rich, protein-filled fare. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$28

**90** **Battle of Bosworth 2022 Puritan Organic Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** From a long-time organic producer in McLaren Vale, this unoaked



# BUYINGGUIDE

Shiraz shows distinctive aromas of black-currant jam, turmeric, violets and ground pepper. The palate is cinched by quite powerful, skinsy, austere tannins, but the succulent fruit is there, too. Epicurean Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$24

**90 Jen Pfeiffer 2020 The Hero Shiraz (Victoria).** Oodles of red-berry jelly aromas rush from the glass at first sniff. An earthy, slightly vegetal note sneaks in upon further inspection. The palate is as plump and fruit driven as you might expect, with a round plushness, but just enough tannin and acidity there to structure this for protein-friendly drinking. Naked Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$22

**90 Jip Jip Rocks 2020 Shiraz (Padthaway).** Heady, succulent fruit notes of mulberry and raspberry compote see a whisper of white-pepper spice. There's juicy fruit aplenty on the palate, too, and more prominent spice, which lends complexity and food friendliness. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$23

**90 Wild & Wilder 2021 The Opportunist Shiraz (Langhorne Creek).** There's a nice peppery spiciness—and a floral character, too—that tempers the ripe, jammy fruit notes. It's mid weight with more concentrated yet succulent berry fruit on the palate and a soft line of tannins. An easy-going, modern Shiraz for sipping midweek, or, heck, even midday. Wine Dogs Imports LLC. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**90 Yeringberg 2019 Shiraz (Yarra Valley).** Sweet-fruited berry pie and winter-warming herb and spice aromas fill the nostrils, while the mid-weight palate is supple and silky with plump fruit and well-placed tannins. A ripe, but still fresh and expressive, bottling. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$50

**89 De Bortoli 2021 17 Trees Shiraz (Heathcote).** Plump and ripe, with black-currant and raspberry-jam aromas backed by earthy spice and a touch of sweet oak, this is a plump, full-figured bottling with a juicy freshness, powerful, leathery tannins and a juicy freshness that indicates we're in cooler climate Shiraz territory than South Aussie counterparts. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Morambro Creek 2019 Shiraz (Padthaway).** A chocolate-vanilla oak underlay adds a sweet toastiness to the tangy purple fruit and pepper notes. It's a rich wine with supple fruit, spicy tannins and lovely freshness. A comforting drop for big-red lovers. Kysela Père et Fils. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$31

**88 Shoofly 2021 Shiraz (South Australia).** Cherry and plum fruitcake aromas take the lead. There's a savory spice, herb and graphite underbelly. The same juicy, concentrated black- and red-berry fruit dominate the palate, but there's a

lovely cinch of fine, spicy tannins that add food-friendly appeal. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Sister's Run 2020 Epiphany Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Plum and blackberry preserves mingle with dried floral, herb and peppery spice notes on this lifted nose. The palate is fresh and concentrated with a powerful line of spicy, talc-like tannins. Protein required. Vine Street Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**88 Tyrrell's 2019 Rufus Stone Shiraz (Heathcote).** This historic Hunter Valley winery has ventured further afield for fruit. Its Heathcote Shiraz opens quite reductively. The musty barnyard aromas somewhat distract from the succulent strawberry and cherry fruit, mint and toasty sweet-oak notes. There's a lovely lift of acidity and silky, tangy red fruit on the mid-weight palate that adds lift and freshness amidst the ripe tannins. Give this time in a decanter for those funkier notes to blow off. Broadbent Selections, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.7% **Price:** \$20

**87 Paringa Estate 2020 Shiraz (South Australia).** Oodles of ripe, bright plum and red-berry fruit opens, backed by peppery spice. The mid-weight palate is equally fruity with lifted acidity and tugged by savory tannins. Easy going, modern sipping. Fox Beverages USA. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$14

**87 Schild Estate 2020 Shiraz (Barossa Valley).** Ripe fruit in the form of plum and raspberry, with a subtle spicy streak, opens this straight-forward Shiraz. It's medium bodied with dark cherry fruit flavor and a quite powerful frame of dusty, savory tannins. USA Wine West. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Two Hands 2022 Angels' Share Shiraz (McLaren Vale).** Plump if somewhat quiet fruit aromas of black cherry and plum are supported by peppery spice and a toasted barrel influence. The palate is powerful, with a big lift of acidity and muscular, gauzy tannins. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.9% **Price:** \$46

## CABERNET SAUVIGNON

**92 Penfolds 2020 Max's Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** This vintage of Max's is plush and polished, with aromas of blackberry jam, cherry cordial, pencil shavings and sweet toasted vanilla bean-and-dark-chocolate oak influence. It's a rich but harmonious wine with balanced acidity and a thread of dusty, reticent tannins that weave it all together. Drink now with a serious plate of protein or continue to cellar for several more years. Treasury Wine Estates. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$25

**92 Penley Estate 2021 Phoenix Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** For full review see page 18. Old Bridge Cellars. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$21

**92 Yalumba 2017 The Menzies Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** This is a rich wine even with some bottle age, but there're plenty of intriguing secondary characters to keep things interesting: fruitcake, plum cordial, cherry chocolate, cola and toasty vanillin barrel notes. Powerful, oak-driven tannins are a little clunky on the palate beside the dried fruit and spice aromas, but crack this open beside a lamb roast and all will be forgiven. Drink now—2035. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$68

**91 Bec Hardy 2021 Garden Series Cabernet Sauvignon (McLaren Vale).** Plush primary fruity aromas such as cherry and blood plum are underpinned by dried mint, pepper, dark chocolate and vanillin oak characters. It's a big wine, but not a flabby one. Tightly structured, with powerful, chiseled tannins, red berry acidity and densely packed fruit and spice, this is made to last. Liquid Innovation. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91 Yalumba 2018 The Menzies Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** Still quite young, ripe and oaky at first pour, then expanding with aeration, Menzies offers dense aromas of black-cherry jam, plum preserves, black pepper, bay leaf atop a layer of toasty sweet oak. The palate is tightly wound in drying, granular tannins. Heightened acidity and tangy red and black fruit make for a structure that should take this another decade at least. Winebow Imports. **Cellar Selection.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$68

**89 Fourth Wave 2021 Crimson Monster Cabernet Sauvignon (Coonawarra).** Plush black-berry, cherry and toasted dark chocolate are in the fore on this rich, lucid Coonawarra Cab, with black pepper and dried mint behind. Tightly wound in, frankly, massive tannins, the fruit holds its own with tangy freshness. Needs major protein beside it. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**89 Wakefield 2020 Promised Land Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** There's a soft, plump and spice-filled nose like rum raisin ice cream with a cherry sauce, pencil lead, dried herbs and something more mealy and oak driven. The palate shows similar succulent fruit-and-oak appeal with nice acidity and savory, chalky tannins. Taub Family Selections. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$14

**88 Bec Hardy 2020 The Grevillea Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** Succulent cherry and currant fruit is threaded with dried, savory herb and spice aromas and a warm gravel note, underscored by toasty, vanillin oak. Tannins are dusty and austere, sucking the mouth dry by the finish. While more juicy fruit would be welcome, this is, nonethe-

less, a solid, varietal wine for tannin-lovers. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$20

**87** **Coltbridge Vineyards 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (South Australia).** A currant-filled nose edged in black olive, ground pepper and copper penny leads to a mid-weight palate that's ultrafresh, albeit with somewhat forced acidity. Pronounced black currant and cherry fruit and a tug of powerful, savory, drying tannins. Drink with pizza or mushroom dishes. Total Wine & More. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$10

## OTHER RED WINES

**92** **John Duval Wines 2021 Annexus Mataro (Barossa Valley).** Ripe and toasty with notes of dark chocolate, green peppercorn, succulent blackberry and warm stones, the polished palate shows restraint and freshness, with tangy acidity, gentle tannins and a fruit-and-spice combo that makes for food-friendly sipping now or cellaring potential over the next 8-10 years. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$60

**91** **David Franz 2019 Waxing Lyrical Mataro (Barossa).** A firecracker of dried herbs and spices such as mint, thyme and cracked pepper sits atop currant and cherry cordial notes, with a slight meatiness in the mix. There's lovely freshness, sweet, juicy fruit on the (dry) palate and a soft line of ripe tannins. A characterful expression of this variety that shows some bottle age and plenty of drinkability. Little Peacock Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.3% **Price:** \$28

## RED BLENDS

**96** **Torbreck 2020 RunRig Shiraz-Viognier (Barossa Valley).** For full review see page 4. Delicato Family Wines. **Cellar Selection.**  
**abv:** 15.5% **Price:** \$225

**95** **Henschke 2021 Henry's Seven Rhône-style Red Blend (Barossa).** From an excellent vintage, this 20th anniversary bottling of Henry's Seven is a beauty and is comparatively affordable to boot. It offers layers of winter-warming aromas, from cherry and raspberry compote to savory, ground-pepper spice and toasted vanilla bean. The palate shows lovely mouth-watering freshness and red berry tang amidst chiseled, textural tannins. A finessed and complete wine for drinking now, this should also evolve beautifully over the next several years. Winebow Imports. **Editors' Choice.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$48

**95** **Henschke 2018 Keyneton Euphonium Red Blend (Barossa).** Euphonium is a blend of Shiraz, both Cabs and Merlot, all from old vines. In typical Henschke style, it's distinctively aromatic. Chinese Five Spice, beetroot and green peppercorn

weave between red- and black-berry fruit. The palate is powerful with lovely tangy acidity, a satiny quality to the fruit and a frame of fine, dusty tannins. Drinking with ease now, this could continue to age for 7-8 years more. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$72

**95** **Torbreck 2020 The Descendant Red Blend (Barossa Valley).** For full review see page 6. Delicato Family Wines.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$150

**92** **Schild Estate 2019 Narrow Road Vineyard Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (Barossa Valley).** This small batch blend of Shiraz and Cabernet is rich, but lucid and comforting, like a favorite winter blanket. Raspberry, cherry chocolate and licorice notes open, with sage, ground pepper and cedar oak notes beneath. There's fruit aplenty on the silky palate, with freshness and kitten's tongue tannins that show structure and add a gravitas that sets this up for several more years of cellaring. USA Wine West. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$50

**91** **Kilikanoon 2020 Killerman's Run Grenache-Shiraz-Mataro (Clare Valley).** Heady blackberry preserve and peppery spice aromas pop from the glass. There's a lovely silky succulence to the dark fruited palate and lifted acidity that works nicely with the gauzy tannins. Drink now with a barbecue and over the next several years. Old Bridge Cellars. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$20

**91** **Torbreck 2021 The Steading Grenache-Shiraz-Mataro (Barossa Valley-Clare Valley).** Aromatic and layered, this plump GSM offers oodles of currant and blackberry fruit alongside peppercorn and spicy beef-jerky notes. It's full bodied and fruity with silky texture, lovely freshness and powerful tannins. Approachable now with an autumnal meal, this should cellar nicely over the next several years. Delicato Family Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$40

**91** **Yeringberg 2019 Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Yarra Valley).** This Cab-dominated Bordeaux blend from one of the Yarra's most historically significant producers, is an open knit, perfumed red. Macerated cherry, mint and a sweet-and-sour oak-derived character open. There's lovely freshness and lightness to the palate despite the inherent power of the varieties. Tannins are raspy and oak-driven, but should soften with time and a winter-warming food pairing. Drink now—2029. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$90

**88** **Blue Pyrenees 2018 Estate Bordeaux-style Red Blend (Pyrenees).** A blend of Cab and Merlot from the cool climes of Western Victoria, this opens with high-toned red-fruit notes of cherry and raspberry with mint, black pepper and subtle oak influence. Savory, taut tannins and elevated

acidity add austerity to the palate. Solid sipping with rich wintery fare. Liquid Innovation. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$40

**87** **D'Arenberg 2018 The Sticks & Stones Red Blend (McLaren Vale).** This blend of native Spanish varieties is reticent, with dusty notes of plum and blackberry jam, dried tobacco and savory spice oak influence. Tangy dark fruit adds freshness to an otherwise powerfully tannic palate. A dense, concentrated wine requires a plate of equally rich protein. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$29

**87** **The Hidden Sea 2020 Red Blend (South Australia).** Cherry lollipop, savory spice and dried herbal characters are underpinned by a toasted coconut oak influence. Full figured with a gauze of grippy, chalky dust textured tannins, this is a powerful, austere red blend. Precept Wine. **Best Buy.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 14.5% **Price:** \$12

**85** **De Bortoli 2019 Woodfired Red Blend (South Eastern Australia).** Plump plum and cherry cola aromas are accompanied by fairly prominent vanillin oak influence. The sweet, tangy fruit and oak characters continue on the palate, where chewy tannins dry out the mouth. PH Importing. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$22

## DESSERT WINE

**91** **De Bortoli 2019 Noble One Semillon (Riverina).** For full review see page 20. PH Importing.  
**abv:** 10.5% **Price:** \$42

**87** **D'Arenberg 2021 The Noble Wrinkled Riesling (Adelaide Hills).** The color of butterscotch with a green tinge, this sticky sweetie smells musty and smoky. Tucked well beneath lurk toffeed apricot aromas. The palate is ultrasweet and viscous. And intensely rich indulgence. Old Bridge Cellars. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

## NEW ZEALAND

### SAUVIGNON BLANC

**93** **Hans Family Estate 2020 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** With a light straw color, there's an opulence here but an effortlessness, too, as though the ginger, honey, lemon curd and grilled peach cobbler notes are just along for the ride. The palate is richer still, with a build of creamy texture, but it retains freshness and heaps of appealing fruit, spice and dairy flavors. Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, but not as you know it. Cape Ardor LLC. **Hidden Gem.** —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$41

**92** **Astrolabe 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough).** Zingy lime, pineapple rind and guava aromas—flanked by ground white pepper, bell pep-

# BUYINGGUIDE

pers and dried herbs—burst from the glass of this aromatic, layered Sauvignon from a consistently solid producer. There's a slightly chalky texture and a pop of flavor on the palate. Food-friendly but easy solo sipping, this is a steal for the price. Share a Splash. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**91 Jules Taylor 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. For full review see page 25. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Best Buy*.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$20

**91 Villa Maria 2022 Seaspray Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. As the name suggests, Seaspray is from a coastal site in the windswept Awatere Valley. It's pale in color but intense in aroma and flavor, with heady tropical, lime leaf and peach skin aromas fringed in sea salt. It's fresh and tangy on the palate with a lovely texture that tempers the bright, racy acidity. Drink now–2030. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**90 Dog Point 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Aromas of lime, grapefruit, flint, white pepper and dried green herbs leap from the glass, followed by a crispy, slightly chalky palate that's long and ultrarefreshing with the same flavors as the nose. This is a step up from your average Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. Vintus LLC. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$25

**90 Te Awanga 2022 Wildsong Sauvignon Blanc (Hawkes Bay)**. This was made in a slightly reductive style, with struck match and grilled nut aromas at first pour. There's also banana, lemon, white peach and herbal notes. The palate is where this wine really comes to life, with lovely texture, a toasted edge to the concentrated fruit and a nice lift of lemony acidity. Characterful and food-friendly, this is not your typical NZ Sauvignon Blanc. LeVecke. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**90 Villa Maria 2022 Taylors Pass Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. There's a honeyed richness at first sniff, like peach cake with lemon-grass garnish beside passion fruit sorbet, with whispers of green pepper and grass. Expect oodles of fruit in the mouth, fleshed out by a creamy texture and lifted by zingy acidity. This wine is dry with a balance that suggests a few years of aging are possible. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$27

**89 The Better Half 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. For full review see page 27. Dreyfus, Ashby & Co. *Best Buy*.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$15

**88 Allan Scott 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Struck match and onion aromas sit atop passion fruit, grass, green bell pepper, white pepper, passion fruit and citrus aromas. The palate is fresh, textural dry and fruity, with a slippery texture, a hint of residual sugar and a dried herb and

lime finish. Give it another few months to settle into itself. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12% **Price:** \$20

**88 Ant Moore 2022 Signature Series Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Offering a bit more than just bombastic fruit, there's a dried spice and flint note alongside the grass, white peach and lime aromas. The palate is crisp and young but with texture and oodles of flavor through to the tangy finish. USA Wine West. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$15

**87 Greg Norman Estates 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. A classic combo of passion fruit, grapefruit and bell pepper lead on this bombastic Sauvignon Blanc. It's fresh, fruity, dry and crisp, with a slippery texture and nice summer sipping potential. Old Bridge Cellars. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$17

**87 Little Goat Creek 2023 Organic Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. A zing of passion fruit, lime, orange rind and green herbal notes hit the nose and then carry on to the crisp, lightweight palate. This is a young, tangy wine for knocking back poolside. Liquid Assets Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13.5% **Price:** \$25

**87 Oyster Bay 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. This is a heady combo of all things green and fruity in Marlborough, from bell pepper, peppercorn and grass to passion fruit, lime and white grapefruit. It's zippy and youthful with a crunchy texture that broadens at the back palate. Delectat USA, Inc. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$16

**87 River Farm 2022 Estate Grown Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Gentle aromas of passion fruit, pineapple, grapefruit and grass lead to a youthful palate with a razor's edge of acidity and a tangy citrus and stone fruit combo to the finish. Vino Del Sol. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$18

**86 Chloe 2022 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Reductive notes of onion and gunflint sit just atop the green citrus and dried herb aromas. There's a very slight sweetness on the palate, fresh acidity and lime and passion fruit flavors aplenty. The Wine Group. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$18

**86 Invivo 2023 X SJP Sarah Jessica Parker Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. This is a young, zippy and slightly fizzy Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc with the classic passion fruit–lime–green pepper combo. There's a slight sweetness to the crisp palate and a feline and grapefruit tang that shows, for this reviewer, a bit more pong than pleasure. Taub Family Selections. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$NA

**86 Off-Piste 2022 Magnetic Wines Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Summer veg garden aromas of green bean, snap pea and bell pepper are

at the fore, with bright citrus and stone fruit just behind. A shriek of limy acidity on the palate is just barely tempered by some textural work. Dry and quite young, this shouldn't be drunk too chilled, for now anyway. W. Direct. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$23

**86 The Crossings 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. A delicate combo of citrus, stone and tropical fruits, with subtle grass and bell pepper, lend juiciness and appealing flavor to this lightweight, easy-drinking Sauvignon Blanc. Deutsch Family Wine and Spirits. *Best Buy*. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$14

**86 Villa Maria 2021 Woven Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. Pronounced reductive notes of struck match and onion mask the more pleasant tropical and green veg aromas beneath. The palate is mostly dry with lovely acidity and fruit weight, and a sharp edge to the acidity. Winebow Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 14% **Price:** \$50

**85 Earthsong 2022 Dillon's Point Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. This is made in a reductive style often used for Chardonnay. For Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, however, this reviewer isn't convinced it works. The struck match aromas dominate over the citrus, passion fruit and green veg characters. There's a bit more fruit on the youthful, zippy palate, but it never quite achieves harmony. Southern Starz, Inc. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$22

**85 Tiaki 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. This wine is showing quite reductively at the moment, with the struck match and onion characters sitting atop the guava and passion fruit notes. Give it another few months in the bottle for the sweetness and shrill acidity to settle down. Concurrent Wines. —C.P.  
**abv:** 13% **Price:** \$20

**85 Wairau River 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. This is green and a touch under-ripe, with sulfuric notes of struck match and sweaty onion over bombastic lime and passion fruit notes. Things improve on the palate, where a tangy lime zest acidity keeps things fresh amid a slightly chalky texture. Terlato Wines International. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$20

**84 Mussel Bay 2023 Sauvignon Blanc (Marlborough)**. There's a synthetic note to this that, combined with the green bean, tomato stem, passion fruit and lime aromas, makes for a somewhat odd nose. A little residual sugar sticks out on the palate, never quite jelling with the acidity and fruit. Tri-Vin Imports. —C.P.  
**abv:** 12.5% **Price:** \$15

## CHARDONNAY

**95 Kumeu River 2022 Coddington Chardonnay (Kumeu)**. This is a quiet Coddington compared with past vintages, but its delicacy brings a



certain charm. Toast, cream, rocks and seashells all weave between peach pit, melon, pineapple rind and ginger. The palate is wonderfully structured, tight and focused but with concentration, freshness and balance. Still young, it could age for many years but has an approachability now, too. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.

**abv:** 13.5%

**Price:** \$65

**94 Kumeu River 2022 Maté's Vineyard Chardonnay (Kumeu).** This is a powerful, somewhat reductive vintage of Maté's. Aromas of nuts, gunsmoke and toast frame concentrated stone and tropical fruit. There's lot of oomph here, but a delicacy of fruit, too. In a polished style, and still very much a baby, this is structured for the long road ahead and should age gracefully for decades to come. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Cellar Selection*. —C.P.

**abv:** 13%

**Price:** \$80

**93 Kumeu River 2022 Kumeu Village Chardonnay (Kumeu).** This may be the lowest priced of the Kumeu range, but there's a salivating factor that makes it very appealing to drink now. Bright melon, peach and white florals lead, with the creamier elements tucked neatly behind. There's a lovely lift of acidity to balance the fruit, oak and lees influence on the palate. An excellent intro to NZ's Chardonnay benchmark producer. Drink up. Wilson Daniels Ltd. *Editors' Choice*. —C.P.

**abv:** 13%

**Price:** \$24

**93 Kumeu River 2022 Ray's Road Chardonnay (Kumeu).** Kumeu's relatively new limestone-strewn site in Hawke's Bay brings to the table lifted tropical and stone fruit, ginger and a mineral, smoky, seashell-and-stones vibe. There are gentle toasty creamy influences, too. The palate shows lovely freshness and integrated oak on a slippery, round palate. It's more about texture than flavor here, and it may not have the longevity of the home sites, but it's a lovely drop nonetheless. Wilson Daniels Ltd. —C.P.

**abv:** 12.5%

**Price:** \$43

**92 Kumeu River 2022 Estate Chardonnay (Kumeu).** For full review see page 17. Wilson Daniels Ltd.

**abv:** 13%

**Price:** \$40

**86 Oyster Bay 2022 Chardonnay (Marlborough).** Round, ripe stone and citrus fruits are on display on both the nose and palate, with toasted vanilla just beneath. The mid-weight palate is creamy with rather forced acidity. It's a straightforward, decently balanced drop. Delegat USA, Inc.

*Best Buy*. —C.P.

**abv:** 13%

**Price:** \$16



**94 Amante 1530 Aperitivo Amaro (Italy; Amante 1530, New York, NY).** Look for an orange hue and juicy orange aroma tinged with vanilla. The palate echoes vanilla sweetness, mixing it with orange peel and a hint of grapefruit pith bitterness on the long finish. Sip or mix, easy drinking. Backed by investor team including Sting and Trudie Styler. Launched September 2023.  
**abv:** 15% **Price:** \$35/700 ml



**94 Butler Vodka (USA; Eight Settlers Distillery, Cottonwood Heights, UT).** This full-bodied vodka has a neutral aroma and mildly sweet and spiced palate. The long finish, lightly laced with anise, coriander and black-pepper heat almost reads like a gin. Distilled from grain.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$29



**94 Origen Holistic Spirits Vodka (USA; McClintock Distilling Company, Frederick, MD).** Backed by actor Woody Harrelson, this flavored vodka has an amber hue and roasty, slightly honeyed aroma. The palate is light, soft and complex, with hints of sandalwood, honey and chamomile tea, rounding into a faintly bitter finish with a hint of orange peel. The blend includes artichoke, elderberry, green tea and muscadine grapes. It may remind some of a light whiskey or barrel-aged gin.  
**abv:** 37% **Price:** \$41



**93 SoVo Vo Vodka (USA; Sono 1420, Norwalk, CT).** Distilled from sugar cane and corn, this feather-light vodka is neutral and crisp, finishing with white pepper and cayenne prickle on the warming, even fiery finish. Label has a “peace & love” rainbow and flowers motif. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$23



**91 Ambush Canyon Vodka (USA; Ambush Canyon Distilling, Houston, TX).** Distilled from corn, this vodka offers gentle hints of vanilla and coconut sweetness, leading into clove and cinnamon sparks on the lingering finish. Recommended for mixing into sweeter-style drinks. **Best Buy.**  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$16

# VERSATILE VODKA

New vodkas will please everyone in every price range.

**H**ere’s the headline: vodka isn’t going anywhere.

In part, that’s because of the spirit’s amazing versatility. It can be high end (see a luxe new \$150 limited-edition bottling from Belvedere) or a budget-priced party pour. It’s a neutral canvas for cocktails and marketing campaigns alike (a “holistic” earthy-flavored vodka backed by actor Woody Harrelson, a Simon Cowell-backed vehicle and a cryptocurrency-themed fundraiser for the ASPCA all figure into the lineup of vodka newcomers reviewed below).

And since it can be produced anywhere and distilled from pretty much any raw material, that gives additional leeway to shape vodka into myriad molds.

No wonder then that vodka continues to appeal to a broad cross section of consumers, giving it staying power even amid a challenging economic backdrop.

Like most spirits categories, vodka case sales have plateaued after several years of stellar growth. Yet, it’s still the key ingredient for a

wide range of popular cocktails, from the Cosmopolitan to the Espresso Martini to the Moscow Mule – and that’s helped keep vodka in the spotlight.

Among these mixed drinks, ready-to-drink [RTD] and ready-to-serve cocktails have seen particular growth. “Vodka is well placed to

capitalize on these trends, as the hard seltzer boom of a few years ago is replaced by spirit-based RTDs,” reports IWSR, a firm that analyses alcoholic beverage data. “In the U.S., vodka-based RTDs command the largest share and growth rate within the spirit-based RTD market.”

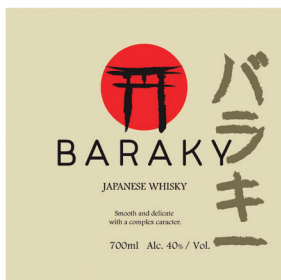
Supporting that theory, look no further than hard-seltzer juggernaut White Claw, which in 2023

expanded into spirits with its new vodka and flavored-vodka line, accompanied by a range of White Claw vodka + soda cans. After all, if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.

Whether mixed into martini glasses or canned highballs or served neat as a chilled shot, we’re ready to see where vodka lands next.

—Kara Newman

Vodka continues to appeal to a broad cross section of consumers, giving it staying power.



**90 Baraky Japanese Whisky (Japan; Tri-Vin Imports, New Rochelle, NY).** This is a blend of whiskies made with barley and rye, aged on average two to three years. The result is a honey hue and slightly nutty aroma. The palate opens with hints of coconut and sandalwood, winding into a drying, lively finish with toasted almond, cigar wrapper and a faint waft of cigar smoke. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$35/700 ml

**96 Belvedere 10 Vodka (Poland; Moët Hennessy USA, New York, NY).** The latest and most luxe addition to the Belvedere line is distilled from organic rye and presented in a tall, angular white tower. The liquid within is light, soft and mostly neutral, with a faint sweetness that hints at lychee or rosewater. Pink peppercorn sparks on the crisp finish. Would be stellar in a martini variation or a Vesper.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$150

**94 Butler Vodka (USA; Eight Settlers Distillery, Cottonwood Heights, UT).** For full review see page 148.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$29

**94 Katla Icelandic Vodka (Iceland; Brennivin America, Wilson, WY).** The mildly spiced palate shows savory echoes of black pepper, coriander and caraway, while the brisk finish warms all the way down. Named after Katla, “the mother of all Icelandic volcanoes.”  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$45

**93 Harry Blu’s Vodka (USA; Craft Spirits, Miami, FL).** Competition show impresario and tastemaker Simon Cowell is now a partner in this Miami-based brand. A mild, slightly minty aroma introduces the grain-based vodka, which echoes on the palate as a faint vanilla-mint sweetness framed by white-pepper sparks on the bracing exit.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$30

**93 SoVo Vo Vodka (USA; Sono 1420, Norwalk, CT).** For full review see page 148. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$23

**92 Bistro Vodka (France; Heavenly Spirits, Lakeville, MA).** Hints of toasted coconut and charcoal frame this light, wheat-based vodka. A faint vanilla sugar note leads into white pepper and

ginger heat on the exhale. The elegant blue-tinted, fluted-glass bottle is one to display on a bar cart.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$32

**91 Ambush Canyon Vodka (USA; Ambush Canyon Distilling, Houston, TX).** For full review see page 148. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$16

**91 Doge Vodka (USA; Satellite Spirits, Grass Valley, CA).** Expected a light, generally neutral palate tinged with vanilla and charcoal, leading to a brisk, warming fade. This is a limited edition to benefit the ASPCA; \$10 per bottle benefits the animal-protection organization. Crypto fans will recognize the dogecoin image on the label, modeled after the Shiba Inu dog breed.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$35

**91 South Fork Vodka (USA; Satellite Spirits, Grass Valley, CA).** Distilled from corn, this vodka has a mild coconut scent. The light palate shows distinct vanilla sweetness, framed with a hint of charcoal and a crisp, tingly black-pepper finish. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$21

**91 Tommyrotter Small Batch Vodka (USA; Tommyrotter Distillery, Buffalo, NY).** This is a corn-based vodka filtered through charcoal, sand and gravel. Expect a mostly neutral aroma, with a mild coconut whiff. The palate is soft and slightly sweet. A fleeting almond note leads to cinnamon; white pepper tingles on the finish. Mix into sweet or creamy drinks.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$34

**90 Andy’s Farm-Crafted Vodka (USA; Browne Family Spirits, Spokane, WA).** Made with organic Washington state wheat, this vodka is mostly neutral on the nose and palate, though it teases with hints of vanilla and roasted nuts. The finish is brisk and somewhat fiery.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$35

**90 Bored Vodka (USA; Satellite Spirits, Grass Valley, CA).** Overall neutral on the nose and palate, this vodka includes a faint minty tingle and mentholated exhale, plus white-pepper sparks on the finish. The label may feature one of more than 30 digital art pieces familiar to NFT aficionados; our bottle depicted the “Bored Ape” meme. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$23

**90 Farm House Vodka (USA; Anytime Spirits, Los Angeles, CA).** Look for subtle herbaceous tones in this vodka distilled from organic warhog wheat, grown and harvested in New York. Hints of tarragon and spearmint linger in the aroma and into the brisk finish.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$39

**90 Tetya Kapa Vodka (USA; Napa Valley Distillery, Napa, CA).** The backstory: Named

for the producer’s Tetya (aunt) Kapa, this vodka is distilled from Napa Sauvignon Blanc grapes as well as “ancient winter grains” to honor the producer’s roots in Ukraine. The result is a faintly fruity aroma and bright, slightly sweet vodka with a brisk, tingly mentholated exhale. Limited bottling.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$40

**90 Wigle Smallman St. Vodka (USA; Wigle Whiskey, Pittsburgh, PA).** Named for distillery’s address on Smallman Street in Pittsburgh’s historic Strip District, this vodka has a neutral aroma tinged with citrus and charcoal. The soft, slightly slick palate offers a lush hint of vanilla, plus black pepper on the brisk, mouthwatering finish.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$29

**89 Florena Curve Vodka (USA; Armen’s Barrels, Washington, PA).** Distilled from organic corn, this vodka is generally neutral, warmed with nuanced almond and vanilla sweetness. White- and black-pepper sparks show up on the tingly finish. Consider mixing into a sweeter-style drink.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$40

**88 North Grove Vodka (USA; Hinterhaus Distilling, Arnold, CA).** Distilled exclusively from California grapes, this vodka has a distinctly fruity character that reads a little like grappa. Rounded, bold and slightly funky, this shows assertive fruit from start to finish, a reminder that vodka doesn’t have to be strictly neutral.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$31

**86 High Desert Cactus Vodka (USA; Alamo Distilling, San Antonio, TX).** Distilled from succulents harvested the north-central state of San Luis Potosí in Mexico, this vodka will remind some of mezcal. That translates as a slightly medicinal tinge on nose and palate, plus hints of rubber and lychee flavors. Cayenne tingle marks the sharp, fiery finish.  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$60

## FLAVORED VODKAS

**94 Origen Holistic Spirits Vodka (USA; McClintock Distilling Company, Frederick, MD).** For full review see page 148.  
**abv:** 37% **Price:** \$43

**93 SoVo Lemon Vodka (USA; Sono 1420, Norwalk, CT).** Bright lemon peel on the nose and palate introduces this lemon-flavored vodka. No sugar is added, resulting in a bone-dry, light-bodied palate. The lingering citrus note is accompanied by mouthwatering white pepper and ginger sparks. Seems right for Lemon Drops and long, effervescent drinks. Distilled from corn, infused with lemon peel. *Best Buy.*  
**abv:** 40% **Price:** \$23

**90 Spirit of Hven Coffey Coffee Flavored Vodka (Sweden; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** Get



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a head start on espresso martinis with this coffee- and spice- flavored vodka. Expect an amber hue and dark aromas suggesting honey, cola and allspice. The palate opens with honey and woody spice, leading into a distinct roasted coffee exhale accented with tingly clove, cinnamon bark, black pepper and cayenne.

**abv:** 41.8%

**Price:** \$48

**88 Spirit of Hven Maja's Raspberry Vodka (Sweden; Preiss Imports, Ramona, CA).** A pale rosy pink hue and somewhat ersatz berry scent introduce this vodka. The palate echoes that berry note, alongside a faint bubblegum note and bitter tinge. Slight acidity makes the mouth water and each sip finishes with a floral exhale.

**abv:** 41.8%

**Price:** \$48

## RED BITTERS/APERITIVO

**94 Amante 1530 Aperitivo Amaro (Italy; Amante 1530, New York, NY).** For full review see page 148.

**abv:** 15%

**Price:** \$35/700 ml

**93 Casoni Amaro Liqueur (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY).** Very much located on the bitter side of the bittersweet spectrum, a rusty orange hue and bracing minty aroma introduce this amaro. The viscous palate mixes chamomile, roots and bitter herbs, bitter orange peel and a hint of cocoa nibs. A distinct spearmint exhale refreshes the dry and relatively bitter exit.

**Best Buy.**

**abv:** 26%

**Price:** \$29

**93 Atōst Bloom Aperitivo (USA; Pressman Wines, Moorpark, CA).** This grappa-based aperitivo has a ruddy hue and a berry-jam aroma mixed with a floral hint. The sweet-tart palate shows up as berry compote and cherry-pie filling, braced up with a hint of grapefruit peel on the finish. Would be nice lengthened into a spritz.

**abv:** 18%

**Price:** \$30

**91 Casoni 1814 Aperitivo (Italy; Banville Wine Merchants, New York, NY).** Ready for Negronis and Boulevardiers, this aperitivo has a bright orange-red hue and candied-citrus aroma. The bittersweet palate opens on the sweeter side, with sugared citrus rinds and a vanilla hint, but dries to show grapefruit and bitter orange on the fade. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 15%

**Price:** \$27 for 1 liter

## JAPANESE WHISKY

**90 Baraky Japanese Whisky (Japan; Tri-Vin Imports, New Rochelle, NY).** For full review see page 148. **Best Buy.**

**abv:** 40%

**Price:** \$35/700 ml

**89 Hakata Whisky Aged 16 Years Sherry Cask (Japan; ImpEx Beverages, San Francisco, CA).** Look for a deep mahogany hue and rich,

plummy aroma including dried fig and a hint of cocoa. The palate is pure sherry, showing raisin-y, plummy, thick fruitcake and molasses tones, with a surprising, slight effervescent feel and drying oak finish. Adding water lightens the flavors to tart plum skin and dried cherry.

**abv:** 42%

**Price:** \$150/700 ml

**88 Hakata Whisky Aged 18 Years Sherry Cask (Japan; ImpEx Beverages, San Francisco, CA).** The sherry influence is apparent from first glance to last sip. The deep nut-brown hue and rich dried-fig and dried-date aromas lead into a bold palate that resounds with molasses-like tones framed with cranberry tartness and pucker. Fruity tones linger into the elongated finish, alongside nutmeg, clove and grippy oak tannins.

**abv:** 42%

**Price:** \$190/700 ml